



J. Drapentier Sculp

Sold by T. Blare at the Looking-glass on London-Bridge

Print



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Sold by T. Blare at the Looking-glass on London-Bridge

Print

A 1607/1680.

GOLDEN CHAIN
To Link the
Penitent Sinner
UNTO
G O D.

Whereunto is added,

A
T R E A T I S E
Of the Immortality of the
S O U L.

By J. TAYLOR, D. D.

Continue in Prayer, and watch in the same
with Thanksgiving, Col. 14. 2.

L O N D O N,

Printed for Jof. Blare, at the Looking-Glass on
London-Bridge, 1704.



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THE
PREFACE
TO THE
READER.

Courteous Reader,

FAITH hath obtained amongst the Graces, and no less hath Prayer amongst the Duties of Religion and Godliness ; and indeed these two are so intimately twisted, and firmly concatenated, that they can admit no separation ; but like Hippocrates Twins, simul oriuntur & moriuntur. Faith naturally breaths out it self in Prayer, and Prayer only ascends to Heaven, when mounted on the wing of Faith.

To the Reader.

Prayer is the Key that opens and shuto carries Heaven, the Channel and Conduit to our Divine Grace, the Bucket which draws quest Water out of the Well of Salvation's side. The aspiration of the Soul after God Rules yea a Divine Colloquy with him, whereo Prayer by fellowship is entertained with the Son Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ : It don finally the Souls powerful and prevailan being Oratory, with the importunity wheronly of the Almighty delights to be conquer'd or overthrown ; and it's spiritual Artillery wherby his Omnipotency it self is willing to have overcome. The consideration of the exalted excellency of which Duty (no doubt) imitates that which hath ever devoted holy Persons & Sons to the practice thereof ; (Men also have been Men of Prayer, Psalm 109. 4.) And as it hath made them performance conscientious in its performance them selves, so no less careful and solicitous to assist others Infirmitie in the Gift Devotion whose Hearts God hath been pleased by his ever the favourable gales of his Grace, and in the the diviner Breathings of his Spirit Soul

To the Reader.

and shal carry full sail to Heaven. Our Saviour taught his Disciples (on their dramquest) to pray. The Apostle gives (in vationis several Epistles) many excellent r God Rules (as well as presses Exhortations) wherein Prayer : Many large Tracts have th been written by devout and holy Men : Upon this Subject ; to which nothing can be superadded by them that follow, whereonly room is left for a contraction of nquerbeir larger Volumes into more compen- wherebeir breviaries, occasionally to stir up to our pure minds by way of remembrance, the extra subminister matter of previous Me- bbt) imitation, whereby to excite and awaken y Perour duller and sleepy Affections, and Ben also help forward the exercise of all our Praise Graces in so spiritual and sublime a then performance. - And certainly, private them Soliloquies and Ejaculations are the best citon Preparatives either to publick or private Gift Devotions ; and that musick in Prayer sed by is ever most acceptable to God, where- , and in the Tongue (that Instrument of the spirit Soul) is well strung and tuned by seri-

To the Reader.

ous premeditation both of our Unw^riness, wh^tiness, and of God's Mercy and Gr^race; Weapon^sness : The promoting of which ob^r Adversy servance, Christian Readers, is the solment o^r Design of these following Devotions of w^r wherein I have intermixed humble Confessions of Sin, and Deprecations of thy Judgment, with ardent Petitions and them^r Thanksgivings for mercy ; so that as in versity a Christal-glass you may behold the hum^r Variable and penitent Sinner deeply mourning their under the burden of his own Guilt and f^rVileness, and the desiring thirsty Saint in th^r affectionately panting after Divine Retir Grace and Mercy. I have also endeavant voured shortly and methodically to digest indee such a System of Divine Truths as more ably nearly concern God's Nature, Attri^rOrate butes and Promises, and relate to our Fath Duty, as that it may serve for a Cor- pard nucopia, to furnish a Child of God yet with the meaning of the Spirit, and Con- tip his Tongue with the Language of Harr Canaan, when ever he goes to his He- least venly Father, yea, and an holy Armo- char

ry,

To the Reader.

In words, whence a Saint may fetch a spiritual
and Grand Weapon to wound Satan that grand
and obnoxious Adversary. And although the confine-
ment of my self to one continued series
of words would have served (as to the
Concourse and manner) a sufficient Direc-
tions affory to such as can take words with-
out them; yet considering the Readers di-
versity, I chose to contrive it with some
humour, that it might be a Crutch to
turning their Defects, who (Turtle like) breath-
ing forth unutterable sighs and groans
Saints in their private Recesses and solitary
Divine Retirements, sadly lament under the
want of suitable Expressions. For tho'
digest indeed Mental Prayer is no less accept-
able to God, who is moved not as an
Attoriator by his Hearer, but rather as a
our Father by his Child, and can readily
Cor- pardon the Lisps of his Childrens Voice,
God yet Vocal Musick, and sometimes in
and Confort too, makes the more delightful
e of Harmony in the Ears of Heaven, at
Hea- least more powerfully and effectually
rmo- charms Hell: And though Words serve

To the Reader.

not to move God, (who knows our very strong Thoughts long before) yet they are very brist useful to affect us. For the sake therefore of these little ones especially, it is that we have composed these Devotionary Lines, and to whose Necessity this supply may be both suitable and acceptable; and now much so much for those stronger ones in God's Family, who are not only taught by the doubt Spirit of Adoption to cry Abba Father once but also whose inward and spiritual m feeling of their wants, I know always insigne ready to prompt their Verbal Petitions help and whom I confidently believe through howe ly furnish'd to every good Word and own Work; save only on the account of fur the ther excitations of them to a Duty Expe wherein the Flesh is weak, though the private Spirit be willing. To which end, Add have contrived it in the most plain and prop familiar Scripture Phrase, God being best understood by us when speaking and best understanding us when we speak to him in the Dialect of his own Spirit; and Milk being fitter than strong

To the Reader.

our very strong Meat for new born Babes in
are very brist : Which Mite of my unworthy
sake undeavours, if thou pleaseſt to own by
that by candid and favourable Acceptance,
Lined at thy praying Hours to digest by
may by ſerious perusal in any of the Ma-
ind manuals thereof, I ſhall account my Hours
n God in its composure well ſpent, and not
by thoubt but through the concurrant Influ-
Fathence of the Divine Benediction (with-
piritut which all Human Helps will prove
always inſignificant) it will ſerve (if not an
itions help) at leaſt a ſpur to thy Devotion,
rough however a Glass, wherein to read thine
d and own ſelf ; for as Face answers Face in
of fur the Water, ſo I perſwade my ſelf, the
Duty Experience of thy own Heart in thy
gh the private Communions with God, and
d, Addreſſes to him, will bear ſome good
n and proportion to these Contemplations.
being Which Spirit of Prayer, that it may
abide and abound in thee more and
more, that thou mayſt be always found
Praying with all Prayer and Supplica-
tion in the Spirit, watching thereunto
strong with

To the Reader.

with Perseverance and Supplication for
all Saints, is, and shall be the humble
Petition of thy continual Orator at the
Throne of Grace, who is,

Thine intirely devoted
in all Christian Ob-
servances,



J. T.

A View of VANITY.

WIT, Wisdom, Beauty, Honour,
Nature, Art,
Vertue and Valour, each have play'd
a part

Upon the World's great Stage : The
Play is done,
Each Action censur'd, and a new
begun.

Wit play'd the Politician, Art the
King,

Wisdom the Judge, and Beauty well
could sing

The *Syrens* Song ; for with a pleasing
Smile,

She play'd the Parasite, and did be-
guile.

Virtue array'd in everlasting green,
A Descended from above, and play'd
the Queen.

Valour

A View of Vanity.

Valour was Honour's Servant, and
did fight

All doubtful Duels in his Master's
right.

Honour was born and bred in Ver-
tues School,

And play'd the Lord ; and Nature
play'd the Fool.

W *Its Wiles are lost, and Wisdoms
Laws repeal'd,
Beauty defac'd, Arts Ignorance reveal'd,
Honour defeated, Valour overthrown,
Nature derided, Vertues Merit known :
For only she beyond the other seven,
Hath left the Earth, to act her part in
Heaven.*



A

Golden Chain, &c.

LINK I.

Glorious God, I beseech thee to have respect unto the Prayers and Tears of thy Servant.

My Sins (I must needs confess) are many, and black, and mine ignorance of them is thicker by far than the Egyptian Darkness; I feel their weight in the fierceness of thy Wrath, and the burden of them in the heaviness of my Soul.

O whither shall I fly for Redress and Comfort? From thee I cannot go, and yet to thee I dare not come, because thou art so highly, and so justly displeased; I am not worthy to receive

any Favour from thee, for I have forsaken thee my most gracious Lord.

My Soul is too foul to be called thine ; too often hath she broken her Vows and Promises to hope for thy Love, or thy gracious Pardon. But, blessed Saviour, what now shall I do ? If yet I should fall into a despair of thy Mercies, I should increase my Disloyalty ; and either deny or despise the Power of thy Passion.

So great was thy Love to the Church thy Spouse, that thou gavest thy self to sanctifie and cleanse it with the washing of Water, by the Word. My Soul, O Christ, is a Member of thy Spouse : Be pleased, O Jesus, so to sanctifie and wash her, that thou mayest present her to thy self without spot or wrinkle, both holy and blameless.

O thou who hast opened a Fountain to the House of *David*, and to the Inhabitants of *Jerusalem*, for Sin and for Uncleanness ; do thou wash me throughly from mine Iniquity, and cleanse me from my Sin.

Suffer

Suffer not either the Flesh, or the Devil, by their Suggestions to seduce me to Uncleanness. Though I am weak, though but an earthen Vessel ; yet be thou pleased to make me a chosen Vessel, a Vessel of Mercy.

Cause me to keep the Vessel of my Body, and to possess it in Sanctification and Honour ; and not in the Lust of Concupiscence, like the *Gentiles* which know thee not.

O be thou my Father in the Grace of Adoption ; be thou my Brother in thy Pity and Compassion ; be thou my Jesus in the Salvation of my sick and sinful Soul.

Arm me with constancy against all assaults of Carnal Imaginations. Give me Modesty in my Countenance, Decency in my Apparel, Civility in my Behaviour, Sobriety in my Discourse, and Contentedness in my Condition.

Give me a Heart that may be zealous for thine Honour ; that may be tender of thy Displeasure ; and that may shun both the inclination to, and the

the desire of offending thee, my great Creator.

Hear me, O God, for thy Mercies are great. Hear me, O Christ, whose Side was pierced; whose Soul was sorrowful; and all to purchase new Hearts for all that are penitent Sinners. Hear me, O blessed Spirit, and assist me in my Petitions, with Sighs and Groans that cannot be expressed.

In thy Mercy, finish soon these days of Sin, that by the Merits of him that was sorrowful in the Garden, all Tears may one day be wiped from mine Eyes; all Sorrows expelled, and driven from my Heart; and my Soul may be received into the Quire of Saints; there to live and reign with thee World without end. *Amen.*

LINK II.

O Most mighty and glorious God, full of incomprehensible Power and Majesty, whose Glory the very Heaven

Heaven of Heavens is not able to contain, look down in Mercy on a distressed Sinner, who here prostrate my self at thy footstool ; mine Eyes being charged with Tears, my Breast with Sighs, my Tongue with Complaints, my whole Body with Disquiet.

Alas ! how am I oppressed ? Into what Perplexities is my poor sorrow-beaten Soul plunged ? How is it abandoned ? How are all the powers thereof laid waste ? The Understanding is darkned, the Will dazled, the Memory confounded, the Courage broken and beaten down ; dread and amazement have dulled my Senses.

But above all, my Conscience is goar-ed with the sting of Sin. I fear thy Fury, I tremble at thy extream Displea-sure. O let me feel thee as a loving Father, but not as an angry and in-flexible Judge.

Rebuke me not, O Lord, with thy violent Voice ; let not thy angry Arm beat stiffly upon me ; it will consume me as a flaming Furnace ; it will swallow

swallow me as a devouring Gulf ; i
will drive me as a Torrent into th
headlong descent of eternal Death
and Damnation.

What Courage can behold thy fiero
bended Brow, and not be astonished
not struck down with terrour ? O my
God ! I cannot fly from thee, but by
flying unto thee. And therefore I fly
from thee offended, to thee appeased.
I fly from a just revenging Judge, to
merciful and indulgent Father, whose
Goodness is infinite, whose Mercy is
Spring, a Stream, an Ocean that can
never be exhausted.

O sweetnes of desire ! O safety of my fa
Souls ! open to me thy distressed Sup
plicant ; Let thy favour receive me in the
running from thy Fury ; Let thy Pity upon
protect me against thy Severity ; com
fort my troubled Soul with one gentle
cast of thy Countenance.

Return, O most merciful Father, yet at
for thy infinite Mercies sake, I beseech
thee, return again to thy accustomed
Clemency.

Turn

Turn to me the appeased Eyes of thy
Mercy ; let me again behold thy gra-
uous Countenance, which my Offences
have caused thee to turn away.

Deliver my Soul from these Miseries ;
save me, for I lie quaking under the
cruel gripes of Destruction ; save me,
Lord, or of necessity I must perish, for
my Offences have made so many mor-
tal Wounds in my Soul, that I ap-
proach even near unto Death ; I lan-
guish under my imminent Danger.

But howsoever it is with me, I will
never lay down my Hope ; I will ne-
ver despair or distrust in thy Mercies.

I have always had so good trial of
my favourable Hearing, of thy liberal
belief, that in all my Temptations, in
all the Anguishes of my Soul, I will rest
upon thy Goodness and Grace, with
comfured confidence, that thou wilt hear
my Prayer ; If not so soon as I desire,
yet at such time as shall be most expe-
dient for me.

O my God, the unspeakable sweet-
ness, make bitter unto me all carnal
Com-

Comfort, which may draw me away into from the love of everlasting Happiness, thou and wickedly allure me to it self with the force of certain present Delight.

How great are the Temptations and most Snares whereunto I am subject? Whither shall this poor Soul go, which thou hast thrown into a Body so frail, in a World so corrupt, and amongst the assaults of so many pernicious Enemies? Open, O Lord, thine Eyes for my guidance, and compassionate my Infirmities: Without thee I can do nothing, and in thee I can do all that I ought.

Give me, I beseech thee, a piercing Eye to see my Danger, and the Wings of an Eagle to fly from it, or the Heart of a Lion to fight valiantly, that I never be wanting in my Duty and Fidelity to thee.

Keep me for ever, O my Saviour, from the torments of Hell, and tyranny of the Devil; and when I am to depart this Life, send thy holy Angels to carry me, as they did the Soul of *Lazarus*, into thy Kingdom. Receive me then

way into that most joyful Paradise, which
ness, thou didst promise unto the penitent
with Thief. Grant this, O Christ, for thine
ght. own Names sake ; to whom (as it is
and most due) I ascribe all Glory, and Ho-
Whi- nour, Praise, and Dominion, both now
thou and for ever. *Amen.*

LINK III.

Merciful Lord, thou which art a
Refuge in the time of Trouble,
have Mercy upon me, for I am weak,
and my Heart within me is desolate. A
soul, a grievous Sinner I am, who have
disobeyed thy Statutes, and broken all
my Commandments.

Fide- My Conscience checks me, and my
Sins testify against me, and mine Ad-
versary the Devil striveth to pluck
from me my confidence in thee.

Depart To thee I cry, to thee I come with
carry panting Heart, with a sorrowful
soul, with an humble Spirit. It is thy
Custom, O God, it is thy Promise to
then hearken
into

hearken unto those that are in Distress and d
The causes of my Grief are the Offences I have committed, that a God of such a
so great should be incensed by a Worm of such a
that a God so good should be dishonored, and
noured by a Miscreant. I have sinned in faire
O I have sinned, and done amiss; and st I
my Portion might be justly therefore destroyed
in the Land of Darkness, there to be forever tormented with the Devil and his Eyes, b
Angels.

But O thou who hast promised to us to heal all those that are broken in Hearte thus and to bind up their Wounds; be thou conciled unto me in the Wounds of mine in Redeemer: I am feeble, and sore smitten; I roar by reason of the disquietness now being of my Heart. All my desire is before thee; and my groaning is not hid from thee.

Send me help from thy Sanctuary, Wrath, and strengthen me out of Sion. O keep my Soul, and deliver me: Let me not be confounded, for I put my trust in thee. Speak Peace unto my Conscience in this Agony, in this sorrowful cry

A Golden Chain.

11

stretched deep sighing for my scarlet Sins.
To thee, and to thee alone I stretch
forth my Hands ; to thee my Soul gas-
tormeth as a thirsty Land. Hear me, O
dishoLord, and that soon, for my Spirit wax-
nened faint : Hide not thy Face from me,
and I be like those that go down to
reformation before destruction.

be for My Sins, O God, have dwelt in mine
and hi Eyes, but now I have made them drunk
with my Tears. Thus let me ever weep ;
and let me ever grieve. It is a joy to
Hear the thus sorrowful, it is a comfort to be
thus distressed. O let me ever thus
live in thy Favour. Let all my Grief
smite for offending thee, and all my Sor-
etnelow be for thy Displeasure.

before Break thou my hard and stony
heart, with the knowledge of my Sin,
and my due consideration of thy heavy
Wrath. O thou that cloallest the Hea-
vens with blackness, and makest sack-
cloth their covering ; do thou apparel
my Soul with the blackness of Sorrow,
and the sackcloth of Mourning for
crying Offences.

an

B

Be

Be gracious unto me in the tender bowels of thy wonted Compassion, work : and ease me of my Sins by the Sufferings of thy Son.

My self I abhor ; my Works I disdain before for I know their unworthiness : On thee alone, O my Jesus, I wholly depend. and by thee alone, I hope for remission. Make thou me a new man. Be thou my Saviour.

Cure me by thy Wounds ; heal me by thy Stripes ; ease me by thy Torments ; comfort me by thine Agony. Do refresh my fainting Soul by thy blood, by thy sweat ; revive me by thy Death ; and the end O Son of God, and Saviour of the world, present me to thy Father, in thy own M^t the Robe of thy Righteousness.

Make me to pass the time of my sojourning here in fear, redeeming the Time, because the days are evil ; and considering, that it is now high time for me to awake out of the sleep of Security.

Grant that as I have opportunity, ever, where I may do good unto all ; but especially to the household of Faith.

The Night cometh when none can
work : Lord do thou draw me, that I
may follow after thee ; that so I may
run with Patience the race which is set
before me, looking unto thee, my Je-
nithus ; the Author and Finisher of my
spiritual life.

Make me to watch and attend thy
coming, O Christ, with the wise Vir-
gins, having Oil in my Lamp, that so
when thou comest, I may be ready for
Thee.

Do thou so carry me through the
storms of this troublesome Life, that in
the end I may arrive at the fair Haven
of eternal Peace and Rest, through thine
own Merits and Passion, O Jesus Christ,
my Lord and only Saviour. Amen.

LINK IV.

O Eternal and most Gracious God,
thou that livest and reignest for
ever, vouchsafe at this time, I beseech
thee, to meet me with thy Blessing, and

to assist me with thy Spirit, that I may
pour out my Heart before thee,
Water.

For I acknowledge, O Lord, that
have broken all thy most righteous
Laws, not only through weakness, but
often times thro' wilful presumption.

I have been vain in my Thoughts,
foolish in my Words, and sinful
all my Actions.

I have profaned thy Sabbaths, neglected thine Ordinances, omitted many of those Duties of Piety which thou requirest for thy Service, and committed many of those Vices, which thou (under the penalty of thy high Displeasure) hast forbidden : So that I have grieved thy Spirit, by whom thou has sealed me to the day of Redemption.

I confess, O Lord, that I am sinful by Nature, and thou mightest have made the day of my Birth to have been the day of my Death, and the time of my final Condemnation and perpetual Separation from thy Glorious Presence.

Yet thou hast spared me, thou has

ercised thy Patience and Long-suffering towards me, which should have led me to Repentance.

But, O vile wretch that I am, instead of working out my Salvation with fear and with trembling, I have poured to work out my Damnation sinning against thee.

And therefore if thou shouldst cut the Thread of my Life, and cast me into thy Fury into the bottomless Pit, what cause should I have to complain against thy Justice?

But, O righteous Judge, yet in Jesus Christ my most gracious Father, me never feel this weight of thy wrath : Give me unfeigned Repentance that I may mourn for my Transgressions here, that so I may not weep and wail, and gnash my Teeth in Hell Sin hereafter.

This, or none, must be the time of Sorrow ; O mollifie my Heart by strength of thy Power. Forgive, Lord, whatsoever I have done amiss : Pardon, O Father, whatsoever I have offended in.

B 3 Thou

Thou knowest my Infirmity, and Iraud
the Necessity which I endure ; who resis
how many Sins I am oppressed, how many
often I am grieved, tempted, troubled. Let
and defiled.

Abate, O my God, the Temptation from
of Satan, and arm me with Strength to
to resist his Suggestions. Ravish and th
Soul with the love of thy self, that mody a
Delight may be wholly in thy rig and B
teous Laws.

Give me an Understanding to know But
thee, an affectionate Devotion to see in
thee, a Wisdom to find thee, a Conveorts of
fation to please thee, a Perseveran and T
boldly to wait on thee, and a Fai O b
happily to embrace thee. O Lord

Give me instead of all the Comfor violent
of the World, the most sweet Unctio the fer
of thy Spirit ; and in lieu of Carn upisce
Love, pour into my Soul the Love clear C
thy Name.

Suffer not Flesh and Blood to ove the Co
come me, O Lord. Let not the Worl earthly
and the shoft Glory thereof, deceiv O
me. Let not the Devil and his sub created

andraud supplant me : But give me Force
witho resist, Patience to suffer, and Con-
honesty to persevere.

Let me never, for a little sensual,
short and vanishing Delight, flowing
from the three filthy puddles of the
Lust of the Flesh, the Lust of the Eye,
and the Pride of Life, drown both my
body and Soul in a boiling Sea of Fire
and Brimstone, where I can see no
anks, nor feel no Bottom.

But grant that with an unshaken,
so seavincible Resolution, I may oppose all
onverts of Sin ; all Motions, Enticements
and Temptations thereunto.

O blessed is that Man that for thee,
O Lord, forsaketh all Creatures, that
mfor violently resisteth Nature, and out of
the fervour of Spirit crucifieth the Con-
Carnal pifcence of the Flesh, that with a
ove clear Conscience he may offer sincere
prayers unto thee, and be worthy of
the Company of Angelical Quires, all
Earthly Things being excluded.

O everlasting Light surpassing all
subcreated Light, cast forth the Beams of

thy Brightness from above, and pierce
the inward corners of my Heart : Purify,
rejoyce, clarifie and quicken my
Spirit with all the Powers thereof, that
I may cleave unto thee with excess of
unspeakable Joy.

I desire familiarly to enjoy thee, but
I cannot attain it. I would gladly fix
my Heart to those things which are
above, but Temporal Cares and un-
mortified Passions weigh me down.

My God, be not far from me ; depart
not in thy Wrath from thy sorrowful
Servant. Succour me, O everlasting
Truth, that no Vanity may move me.
Come Heavenly Sweetness, and let all
Impurity fly from thy Face.

Furnish me, O Lord, with the spiritual
Weapons of Warfare : Let them
be mighty through thee, to the pulling
down of strong Holds ; casting down
Imaginations, and every high thing
that exalteth it self against the know-
ledge of thee, my God ; and bringing
into Captivity every Thought to the
Obedience of Christ.

O Eternal Spirit, do thou make me
a Stranger and Pilgrim, to abstain
from Fleshly Lusts, which war against
my Soul.

Cause me to walk honestly as in the
day ; not in Rioting and Drunken-
ness, not in Chambering and Wanton-
ness, not in Strife and Envying, but
putting on thee, my Lord Jesus.

Give me Grace, I beseech thee, that
may constantly ply and improve all
Opportunities, Occasions, Offers, every
Moment, Ministry, Mercy, Motions of
the Spirit, Checks of Conscience,
Corrections, Temptations, to store my
self richly with Spiritual Strength a-
gainst that last Encounter, and of
highest Consequence, either for eter-
nal Happiness, or unconceivable Hor-
our.

Prepare me, O God, for the hour
of my Change ; and then bring me, O
Christ, out of this Valley of Tears, to
those Waters of Comfort, where I
may triumphantly sing to the Honour
of thy Name. Amen.

LINK V.

O Omnipotent God ! most manifest, and yet most secret and hid ! O bountiful giver ! and yet severe exacter ! Have Mercy upon the meanest, and unworthiest of all thy Creatures. I acknowledge, O Lord, that by reason of my Sins, I am altogether unworthy to breath in the Air, or to tread on the Face of the Earth.

For I have sinned against the Law and the Gospel, against the Light of Conscience and Knowledge, and against the good Motions of thy eternal Spirit. I have been overcome, I have yielded to the sway of my sottish Sensuality : I have disobeyed thy Statutes, and rebelled against thee.

I have so lewdly wasted all the parts of my Life, and so notably ruined all the powers of my Soul, that I am no ways able either to recover the one, or to repair the other. O the Pride of my Heart, the Hypocrisie of my Life, my carnal

carnal mindedness and affectednes ! O my Blindness and Ignorance in the things of thee and thy Son, notwithstanding those great Means of Grace and Salvation thou hast afforded unto me. I am also exceeding guilty of the dreadful and condemning Sin of Unbelief. I am not able to reckon up the horrid Impieties I have committed against thee ; for which thou mightest justly abhor me, and for ever cast me out of thy glorious Presence.

But O thou Eternal Goodness, tho' I be vile and sinful, yet thou art gracious and merciful. Be pleased to extend thy Bowels of Compassion towards me thy sorrowful Servant. Regard the silent Sobs which my feeble Soul sendeth forth, surprised with Fear : Regard the broken Voice, which my trembling Tongue addresseth unto thee.

Remember not against me my former Iniquities, neither charge me with the Sins of my Youth. But O let the Merits of thy Son, move thee to

to Mercy and Compassion : And as oft as his Wounds appear in thy sight, let the Woes of my Sins be hid from thy Presence : As oft as the redness of his Blood glisters in thine Eyes, O let the guiltiness of my Sin be blotted out of thy Book.

Let thy Mercy extend not only to pardon my Sins that are past, but to make me strong and able against Sins hereafter. For what good will Pardon do me, if presently I return again to my Sin ? What will it avail that I be washed and cleansed, if forthwith I plunge my self in the Mire.

Conifort me in my Sorrows, support me in my Miseries, guide my Feet in the way of Peace, provide for me in my Wants, and in all places, and at all times, be thou my Father, my Rock, and my strong Salvation.

Though the Troubles of my Heart be exceedingly enlarged, yet bring thou me out of all my Fears ; in the midst of my Sorrows let thy Comforts, O God, refresh me. Lord make me

to

to dye unto Sin, and to live by thy Grace ; that when I shall put off this Tabernacle of Flesh, I may meet thee, my Jesus, with joy and rejoicing.

Make strong my Soul against all Temptations, and defend me with the Buckler of thy Mercy against all the assaults of the Devil. Shew Mercy, O Lord, to thy wandering Sheep, which is subject to the rending Teeth of the ravening Wolf : Rid my Soul, O Christ, from the roaring Lion, and save me out of his Mouth.

Suffer me not, O Lord, to become the Sacrifice of Sin ; but send down thy Spirit, that with his fiery Countenance he may put to flight the crooked Fiend of Hell.

O Eternal Goodness, be thou graciously pleased, I humbly beseech thee, to give me a true sense and feeling of all my Backslidings : Give me also a hearty remorse, contrition and sorrow for them all ; together with a stedfast resolution of new Obedience.

Teach me so to number my Days,
that

that I may apply my Heart unto Wisdom. Create in me a clean Heart, O God, and renew a right Spirit within me. Let not thy Commandments depart from it all the days of my Life. Grant me thy Holy Spirit to guide and instruct me, that I may tread the old Serpent under my feet, and overcoming his heights, may again be restored to the joy of thy Salvation.

Have Mercy upon me, O Lord, raise me up out of the mire of Corruption, for the puddle thereof hath even choaked me up. I am burdened with Sins, troubled with Temptations, intangled and oppressed with many evil Passions; and there is none to help me, none to deliver and save me, but thou, O Lord, my Saviour ; to whom I commit my self, and all mine, that thou may'st keep me, and bring me to Life Everlasting.

In all Temptations, inward or outward, defend me with thy invincible Aid ; especially when furiously they assail me, when tempestuously they break in upon me. Then, O Lord, stand firmly

firml^y by me, then cover me with thy mighty and all-powerful Arm.

Thou art my witness, O Lord, that nothing can comfort me, no Creature give me rest, but thee alone, whom I desire to behold everlastingl^y. O good Jesu, When shall I be freed from the miserable Bondage of Sin ! that so I may stand to behold thee, and contemplate the Glory of thy Kingdom. O when will that blessed and desired Hour come, that I may be filled with thy Presence, and thou may'st be unto me all in all !

Help me, O Lord, that I may seriously consider with my self what a punishment of loss it will be to be banished from thy Face, whose Beauty cannot be expressed, the sight whereof the Angels insatiably desire to behold.

O noble Nature ! O infinite Es-
sence ! O incomprehensible Majesty ! How shall I know thee ? For thou art a Light which cannot be approached. Thou art most high, and so must he be whosoever shall attain thee.

O Father of Light, enlighten my Eyes, that I may see and discern thee; enlarge my Heart, that I may know thee, love thee, and adore thee, as thou hast revealed thy self in thy Word. Set thine Eye of Favour upon me, O Lord, that by the gracious Influence thereof, I may be directed and strengthened in the way which will lead me to Life everlasting.

Draw out my Heart to thy self by the cords of thy Love, that thou may'st be all my Delight. Confirm me, O Christ, with the Grace of thy Spirit; that I may serve thee hereafter with more Zeal and Devotion. Help me in all the Passages of my Life to order my Conversation in all things aright, that in due time I may see thy Salvation.

Thou, O Lord, art my Father, to whom belongeth Honour; thou art my Master, and requirest me to fear thee: Lord make me fear to offend thee, who art a Righteous Judge; and make me love and honour thee, who art a Gracious Father. For whom have I in Heav-

ven but thee ? And there is none on Earth that I desire beside thee : Though my Heart panteth, and my Flesh faileth, yet thou art my Strength and my Portion for ever.

O let thy Servant rejoice in thee, and not in himself, for thou art my Hope and my Crown, thou art my Joy and mine Honour. Thou art my Beloved, the choicest amongst Thousands, in whom my Soul hath taken Pleasure to dwell all the Days of my Life.

And therefore, now seeing, O Lord, the unclean Spirit is cast out, O let him not re-enter with seven worse than himself. After so many Groans of Contrition, and Tears of Repentance, O suffer me not again to return with the Dog to my Vomit, nor with the Sow to the Mire of my former Uncleanness ; lest being again entangled and overcome with the Filthiness of Sin, (which now I have escaped) my latter end prove worse than my beginning.

Dear God, enable me with Patience,

ence, I humbly beseech thee, to withstand courageously every Temptation, and to go on in well-doing, notwithstanding the oppositions I meet with in this World. In the day of Prosperity, grant I may not forget thee ; and in the time of Adversity, suffer me not to distrust thee : But grant me Heavenly Wisdom, O Lord, that I may first seek thy Kingdom and the Righteousness thereof, that so all Creature-comforts may be added unto me.

Wean my Affections, O God, from the transitory Things of this World ; and let nothing be pleasant unto me, but that which is pleasing unto thee.

Save me from the innumerable Plagues which thy Justice hath addressed for the Wicked ; and deliver me, I beseech thee, from all the Calamities I suffer in this Life.

Though now I walk in the shadow of Death, yet I know it's in thy Power to restore me to Health. Lord (if it may stand with thy secret Will) be pleased to recover me, that I may glorifie thy Goodness.

But

But if otherwise thou hast determined to make me as Water spilt upon the Ground, give me a willing and ready submission to thy Eternal Decree: And grant me at the last so safe a passage and conduct in the Arms of thy Mercy, that I may be safely conveyed into *Abraham's Bosom*. All which I beg for the Merits of thy Son, my only Intercessor; to whom with thee and thy Spirit be all Glory for ever.

Amen.

L I N K VI.

Gracious God ! Thou who art most powerful, and yet most pitiful to those that are in Distress ; be pleased, I humbly beseech thee, to behold me thy miserable Creature, not in Anger, not in Justice, but in Compassion and Mercy ; not to punish my Infirmities , but graciously to cure them.

When I weigh and consider thy infinite

finite Greatness, and my own Unworthiness to appear in thy sight, I tremble, and am even confounded in my self; Confusion seems to cover my Face as a Veil : For which of thy Commandments have I not transgressed ? O Lord, I stand here guilty before thee, of the breach of all thy most Righteous Laws. The number of my Sins is so great, and the nature of them so grievous, that they make me seem vile to my self, how much more loathsome in thy sight.

If thou straitly mark mine Iniquities, O Lord, where shall I stand ? If thou weightest me in the Ballance, I shall be found too light. I know thou art a consuming Fire : I confess I am but as withered Stubble. It is thy Mercy which endureth for ever, and thy Compassion which never fails, that is the Cause I am not consumed, that I am not now roaring in Hell with the damned.

O Lord rebuke me not in thine Anger, neither chasten me in thy hot Displeasure.

pleasure. Have Mercy upon me, O Lord, for I am weak : Heal me, O God, for my Bones are vexed.

What dost thou require of a guilty and miserable Sinner, but that he be contrite and sorrowful, and humble himself for his grievous Offences? All my Sins, O God, are very displeasing unto me : I will never through the strength of thy Grace, commit them any more ; but will humbly confess and bewail my former Transgressions, and intreat always for Mercy without intermission.

O Heavenly Father, I humbly beseech thee (for the Merits of thy Son) that thou wouldest be pleased to pardon and forgive unto me all mine Iniquities, and deliver me, O God, from the Vengeance and Shame which is due unto me for them.

Exercise upon me, O Lord, the work of thy Mercy ; for with thee there is plenteous Redemption : Punish not my Offences, I humbly beseech thee, but pity the Weakness from whence they

they proceed O pity the distress where
into they have cast me.

Thou seest, O Father, how low I
am fallen ; even beneath the base con-
dition of Contempt. I am as a wither-
ed Flower without either beauty or sap ;
for my Life is spent with grief, and my
Years with sighing : My Strength fail-
eth because of mine Iniquities, and my
Bones are consumed. There is no
soundness in my Flesh, because of thine
Anger ; for thine Arrows stick fast in
me, and thy Hand presseth me sore.
My Heart is smitten, and withered like
Grass, my Days are consumed like
Smoke.

Thou, O Lord, hast afflicted me
with all thy Waves ; I am come into
deep Waters, where the Flouds over-
flow me : Innumerable Evils have com-
passed me about ; deliver me, O God,
from all my Transgressions, and make
me not the Reproach of the foolish.

O Fountain of Mercy, from whence
innumerable Streams of Pity do pro-
ceed ! how canst thou be dried ? O in-
finite

finite sweetness! what languishing Soul came ever to thee, and was not both cured and cleansed, and fully refreshed?

Thou art the Rock of my Faith, the Anchor of my wavering Hope, and the Center of my languishing Desire. In thee I trust, upon thee I rely.

What meanest thou, O Lord, to suspend thy Comfort so long? to punish my Desire so much with delay? How long, O Lord, shall my anguish endure? O gracious Goodness! O merciful Lord! O lover of Mankind! not only in Pity pardon my Weakness, but in Power remove it.

Alas! how is my Soul torn in pieces with remembrance of my Sins; my Strength is broken both with the greatness and continuance of my Grief. I am weary of my groaning; and yet I will not cease to redouble my Groans; many streams of Tears have gushed out of mine Eyes, and yet I will not close them, until I have obtained thy Favour. How obdurate

durate is my Heart ? How dull, how dead is my Soul ? O ! that I could weep an Ocean of Tears, to overwhelm my Sorrow, to drown my Shame.

Assist me, O Holy Spirit, and give me Grace to repent. Receive, I beseech thee, the Groans which my Grief sendeth to thee, winged with Sighs, and poised with Tears.

Come Gracious Lord ; with-hold no longer. O Water of Life ! O shower of my Salvation ! Distil into me one drop of thy Dew. Deliver my Soul from the Chains of Sin, where-with I am bound to satisfie the rigour of thy Justice, by Eternal Death and Damnation. O deliver me, I humbly beseech thee, both from the Pleasures and Cares of this World, which are Cables to tye me, Fetters to hold me captive from turning to thee. Grant I may scorn with infinite disdain to set my Affections on any thing here, that may steal away my Heart from thee my beloved.

Enlighten me, O sweet Jesu, with
the clearness of thy Light, that I may
earn above all things to seek and to
find thee, who art the Fountain of Life.

Lift up my Mind overcharged with
the weight of my Sins, and draw up
my desire to Heavenly Treasures; that
having tasted the sweetness of Celestial
Delight, I may loath and contemn
the transitory things of this World.

Give me strength, O Lord, against
my Corruptions which are so potent
and powerful in me. Purifie my
Nature, which is filthy and corrupt,
and subdue my sinful Affections. Re-
press the many wandering Thoughts,
and bear down the fury of Tempta-
tions which violently assault me.

Restrain my inward Senses, O God,
and bar up all the passages of my
soul, that Satan may find no place to
enter into me. Close up the eyes of
my Mind, that they behold not Vani-
ty; stop my Ears that they hear not
Folly, and my spiritual Smell, that it
set not in the favour of Death.

Set a watch before my Mouth, and seal up the closet of my Heart, that nothing enter into the one, or go out at the other, to defile me.

Make me courageous in Conflict with Satan, who endeavours continually to undermine my hope, and to raze the foundation of my eternal Well-being. Strengthen me, O Lord to stand against his Wiles, and shortly bruise him under my feet.

Raise my Thoughts and Affection to the things that are above. Renew me according to the Image of thy Son and frame my Life to a Heavenly Conversation. Enlighten my Understanding, sanctifie my Will, moderate my Desire, and govern my Affections.

Destroy the Man of Sin that is in me, and deliver me from this body of Death. Work in me a fear of thy Power, a love of thy Goodness, a zeal of thy Glory, a thirst of thy Grace and an earnest desire, and constant resolution (as much as in me lyeth) to frame all my Actions to the Rule of thy Word.

Quicken me, O Lord, with thy spirit, that I may cheerfully listen to the Voice of the Heavenly Charmer, that he may kill the Venom of Sin that lurks in my Soul. Let the Words of thy Preacher drop as the Rain, and rest as the Dew, upon my Heart. Fill him with thy Spirit, that his Lips may be full of thy Grace ; that he may speak Instruction to my Ignorance, Correction to my Errors, Comfort to mine Afflictions, and Peace to my Conscience. Guide thou the sword of the Spirit in his Hand, that it may meet with, and smite my special Corruptions.

Lord, open my Heart that I may tend to those Things that belong to my Peace. Make me to understand the way of thy Precepts ; so shall I walk of thy wondrous Works.

As thou hast given me, O Father, purpose to praise thee, so give me power and opportunity to do it.

Fit and prepare me, O Lord, for the participation of thy sacred Banquet :

Receive me graciously, O infinite Goodness, I humbly beseech thee, to the Feast thou hast prepared for me though I am unworthy of the Crumb that fall from thy Table, yet be thou pleased to feed me with the Bread of Everlasting Life.

The sweetness of thy Words, O Lord Christ, doth encourage me to come unto thee ; but my Offences amaze me, the multitude of my Sins doth oppress me, and the impurity of my Conscience driveth me back : so that when I consider, O Lord, how unworthy I am to receive those Heavenly Dainties, I tremble, and am sorely distressed. For if I come not to thee I fly from the Fountain of Life ; and if I unworthily intrude, I incur the most heavy Displeasure.

Behold, with a holy confidence and assurance I come unto thee, that I may be refresh'd in thy Gift, and delighted in thy holy and heavenly Banquet. Thou art my Health, my Hope, and my Strength. Thou art my Redemp-

on, my Glory, my Honour, and the
fitter up of mine Head.

Make joyful therefore this day the
oul of thy Servant. Inflame my Heart
ith the sacred Fire of thy Love, and
deliver me, O God, from all dulness
and sloth. Sanctifie and quicken me,
O Lord, that I may relish the sacred
and celestial Food to my spiritual
nourishment and growth in Grace.

Illuminate my Understanding with
beam of thy Light : Grant that
whilst I receive the Bread and the
wine, my Meditation may be wholly
on thy grievous Passion ; that appre-
hending by Faith how thy Body was
broken, and thy Blood poured forth
for my Sins, I may sensibly feel some-
cordial desire of thy Love.

Suffer not Satan, O Lord, to suggest
any thing into my Mind that may hin-
der the saving effect of thy communi-
cation with me. But grant that I may
worthily partake of those Heavenly
Dainties to the Glory of thine infinite
Goodnes, and the everlasting Comfort
of my Soule.

Lord renew my Repentance, com-
firm my Faith, perfect my Charity,
increase my Knowledge, fasten my In-
tention, and quicken my Devotion
Give me, I humbly beseech thee
Sorrow for my Sin, Faith in thy Pro-
mises, Love to thy Members, and
Thankfulness for this inestimable Fa-
vour thou vouchsafest unto me.

O thou true Food of my Soul, quick-
en me with thy Spirit, that I may
live to thy Glory; not seeking my
own Pleasure, nor doing mine own
Will, but devoting the remainder of
my Life to thy service, and yielding
my self wholly to the power of thy
sanctifying Grace, to work in me al-
ways that which is pleasing in thy ap-
sight. O that I might spend every
day, pass every Sabbath, make every
Prayer, hear every Sermon, think
every Thought, speak every Word, and
do every Action, as though when that
were done, I were presently after to thy G-
pass to thy Judgment. O let me live
in thy Fear, that I may die in thy Fa-

and d-
your unwo-

com-our, and attain to the blessed Resur-
charity ection of the Just.

my In- Grant, O my God, that when I have
votion assed the waves of this troublesome
thee world, I may sing triumphant Hale-
y Pro- jahs to thy Praise and Glory, thro'
an the Merits of him who is my elder
ole Fa brother, even the Lord Jesus Christ
my only Saviour and Redeemer. *Amen.*

LINK VII.

O Eternal, Incomprehensible, and
Invincible God ; infinite in
power, Wisdom, and Goodness,
dwelling in that Light which no Man
can approach, where thousand thou-
sand minister unto thee, and ten
thousand times ten thousand stand be-
fore thee ; I adore thy Majesty, and
with a holy confidence and assurance,
present my self before the Throne of
thy Grace.

Behold me in thy tender Mercies,
and despise me not, O Lord, though
unworthy.

My Soul is even stifled by inclosing her Corruptions, and not giving a free passage for them to break forth. I will sincerely acknowledge my Sins, that thou mayest take no knowledge of them, I will lay open my Offences before thee, that thy Compassion may cover them from the Eyes of thy Justice; I will not conceal my miserable Defects, lest thereby I lose thy Pity and Relief.

O merciful and powerful Lord vouchsafe to hear my distressed Soul groaning at the Gate of thy Mercy. See how foully it is defiled with Evil, how deeply Corruption hath tainted the Faculties and Substance thereof, how the stamps of Sin, by reason of long Custom, are so firmly imprinted therein, as it is hard to deface them.

That Heavenly Light which thou hast kindled in my Heart (though I seek to smother it never so much) clearly convinceth my Conscience, that I prefer the pleasures of Sin,

which

which are the works of Darkness, before the glorious Inheritance of thy saints in Light.

I have abused thy Patience, slighted thy Majesty, and profaned thy Worship. I have cast off my obedience and subjection to thee, my most meek and merciful Lord.

So that unto me nothing belongeth but Shame and Confusion, who instead of embracing thy Mercy, and answering thy Love, have provoked thy Justice and incensed thy Wrath.

Though thou shouldest drown all my former Iniquities in the bottomless Pit of thy Mercy, yet the Sins of this Day alone give sufficient evidence against me to condemn me.

My unsatisfied Desires, my impure Thoughts and vain Imaginations, my idle Words, and unfruitful Works, make me inexcusable before thee.

I cannot answer for my abuse of the Creatures, mispending my Time which is most precious, and over-slipping many Occasions of doing good. How

negligent have I been of the Duties of my Calling ? how cold and dull in thy Service ? how defective in the confession of my Sins ? and how careless in applying the sovereign Remedies of thy Word.

My Sins are such, as for number cannot, for nature should not be rehearsed : All my Tears are not sufficient to cleanse one spot of them, or to quench one spark of the Fury which they have kindled.

They are a burden too heavy for me to bear ; they lye upon my Conscience like so many talents of Lead, and would press me even down to the bottomless Pit, did not thy Mercy take hold on the hand of my Faith to support me.

Unto thee I turn, O my God, for thou hast sorely smitten me : My Soul is full of Trouble, and my Life draweth nigh unto the Grave : My Conscience is torn with the biting of Sin, which hath wounded my Soul with Sorrow and Grief.

One depth calleth upon another ;
the depth of my Wickedness, upon the
depth of thy Goodness ; the depth of
my Misery, upon the depth of thy
Mercy. O Lord, in the depth of thy
Goodness, find means to overcome
my Wickedness, in the depth of thy
Mercy, to relieve my Misery.

Rectifie my Will, that I may detest
my Wickedness ; and mollifie my
Heart, that I may bewail my Misery.

Accept me, O Lord, who resign
my self unto thee ; and by Faith in-
corporate me into thy Son. Make
thou (I beseech thee) his Wisdom my
Instruction, his Righteousnes my San-
ctification, and his Glory my Happi-
ness.

I humbly beseech thee, O sweet
Jesu, to inflame my Heart with thy
Love, and to kindle in me an ever-
lasting desire to approve my self unto
thee.

Give me a special Faith to receive
and retain thee : Apply continually
thy Fear to imbolden me, thine Ago-

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ny to comfort me, thy Nakedness to cloath me, thy Condemning to quit me, thy Blood to cleanse me, thy Wounds to heal me, and thy Death to quicken me.

O Holy Christ, the Repairer of my Life, the Sweetness of my Soul, the Refuge against my Calamities : What flinty Heart, regarding what thou hast suffered, will not be inflamed with the fire of thy Love ? will not advance into hope of thy Mercy ? I will not enquire into the depth of this Mistery, but I will embrace it with the love of my Will.

O let nothing be so precious to me as thy Favour, nothing so fearful as thy Displeasure, nothing so hateful as Sin, nothing so desirable as thy Grace, which is sufficient for me.

And seeing, O Lord, I have here no abiding City, but am altogether as a stranger and pilgrim, suffer me not, I humbly beseech thee, to mispend my time, to misplace my affections, or to lose my self in the pursuit

after

after the transitory things of this Life :
But let all my Travels be towards
Heaven, all my Trade for spiritual
Merchandise, and all my searching for
the Pearl of the Gospel : Enlighten
my Understanding, dissipate the Clouds
of mine Ignorance, that I may ap-
prehend the infallible Truth of thy
Word. Let me desire temporal Bles-
sings only for spiritual ends ; Wealth,
that I may be rich in good Works ;
Health and Strength, the better to
enable me to do thee Service ; and
length of days, that I may praise thee
in the Land of the Living : For in
Death there is no remembrance of
thee ; in the Grave who shall give
thee Thanks ?

Lord rebuke the surges of Temptations, and quiet my Soul. Let thy Peace always rule in my Heart, and do thou quell and subdue all my rebellious Affections. Soften my Heart that is hardened by the deceitfulness of Sin, and humble me for all my Transgressions. Let thy Mercy pre-
vail

vail against thy Justice, my Sighs and Tears against my sinful Joys; and thy Sons Blood even against my crimson Sins. Purge me with Hysop and I shall be clean, wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

Let me hear of thy loving-kindness betimes in the morning, for in thee is my trust: Shew me the way that I should walk in, for I lift up my hands unto thee.

Lord give me a sense of my dulness, and a fervent desire of more Zeal. Quicken me by thy Spirit, guide me by thy Wisdom, sanctifie me by thy Grace, and instruct me by thy Word: Fill the sails of my Affections, and drive me speedily into the fair Haven where I should be. Grant I may cheerfully run and finish my race, and after I have finish'd it, receive the Reward of the Righteous, who shall shine as the Sun in the Kingdom of the Father for ever.

Break and dissolve the unlawful contracts between my Soul and the

Crea-

Creatures ; and marry her unto thy self. Purge out the dross of my Corruptions, strengthen me in all the assaults of Temptations, direct me in all the Affairs, and comfort me in all the Miseries and Afflictions of this Life.

O Eternal God, the Father of my Lord Jesus Christ, Grant me according to the riches of his Glory, that I may be strengthened by his Spirit in the inner Man ; that Christ may dwell in my Heart by Faith, that I being rooted and grounded in Love, may be able in some sort to comprehend with all Saints the measure of thine infinite Love, manifested to me in the Faith of thy Son. O divine Fire, burning continually in the Hearts of the faithful, inflame the coldness of my Affections, that I may be fervent in my Devotions, and zealous in the profession and defence of thy Truth.

Give me, O Father, a thankful Heart for all those inestimable Favours vouchsafed unto me ; for thine infinite

finite and unspeakable Love in electing me before thou hadst laid the Foundations of the Earth ; for thy Mercy in redeeming me with the Blood of thy Son, and for thy Grace in calling me to the knowledge of thy Truth.

Imprint thy Love so deep in my Heart, that neither Hunger nor Thirst, nor Sorrow, nor Nakedness, nor Treachery, nor Thraldom, nor hope of Rewards, nor fear of Persecution, nor Life nor Death, may ever raze it out.

Thou hast planted me, O Lord, in a fruitful Land : Thou hast fenced me with thy Providence ; watered me with the former and latter rain of thy Word ; pruned me with mild and seasonable Afflictions ; and thou castest continually the hot and bright Beams of thy Favour upon me : As thou heapest Blessing upon Blessing, so do thou still add Grace to Grace, that thy Goodness continued to me, may make me continually better.

Let me from my Heart forgive my Brethren their Trespasses, compassionate

nate

nate their Infirmitieſ, relieve their Necessities, eaſe their Crosses, and bear their Burdens. Let the Hungry have never a just Action againſt me at thy Bar, for not giving them Meat; nor the Thirſty for not giving them Drink; nor the Naked for not Cloathing them; nor the Sick and Imprisoned, for not Visiting them: O let the heat of my Love be extended to all, but especially to thoſe of the Houſhold of Faith: Grant I may meet ſuch measure unto them, as I continually expect from thee.

O moſt merciful God! moſt powerfuſ, moſt prone and ready to help: How loving and favourable art thou to thoſe that are in diſtreſſ? How ſure a Friend to thoſe who love thee, and truſt in thy Mercey?

Scarce, O Lord, can I diſpoſe my ſelf to crave Forgiuenefs, to ſue for Mercey, but I receive ſome taste of thy Favoure. I am raſh in offendiſg thee, and thou art ready to remit my Offences. I run a pace to diſhonour thee,

thee, and thou hast more to receive
me to Grace.

When I am coming but slowly to
thee, thou runnest to meet me, and
to embrace me in the arms of thy Love.
Thou givest me the sweet and com-
fortable kisses of Peace ; or if for a
time thou deferrest thy Comforts, it
is to send them in greater abundance.

O that I could sufficiently adore
thy Majesty, acknowledge thy Power,
and embrace thy Love.

When I was in distress, and even
ready to perish, in a moment thou didst
pierce the Heavens, and come down.
Thou didst deliver me. Thou didst
comfort and revive my languishing
Soul, my Hope which was weighed
down with the plummets of Sin, is
now full of lively Courage and Joy.

O how great is thy Goodness, O
Lord, which thou hast laid up for them
that fear thee, which thou hast wrought
for them that trust in thee, before the
Sons of Men.

I will extol thee, O Lord, for thou
hast

haſt lifted me up, I will meditate in thy Precepts, and have respect to thy ways. I will delight my ſelf in thy Statutes ; I will not forget thy Word : For thou haſt brought up my Soul from the Grave ; thou haſt kept me alive, that I ſhould not go down to the Pit. O ! how good is the Lord ? who comforteth the afflicted, healeth the wounded, and reviveth the dead ? Eternal Praifes and Thanks be rendred to thee, O Lord, my strength and my shield.

O that my Heart were a ſkiilful Inditer, and my Tongue as the Pen of a ready Scribe, to write down thy Praifes, and record the wonderful Things thou haſt done for my Soul. Thou haſt finished my Fears, assured my Hopes, perfected my Joys, and granted my Desires. Thou haſt dealt graciously with me above my desert, and therefore, I will rejoyce in thee above measure, and magnifie thee without end.

Blessed be thy Name, O moſt bea-
tiful

tiful Lord, for the singular Benefits I receive by the Sacrament. O unspeakable Grace ! O infinite Love ! What admirable Favour is this, that thou shouldst be pleased to feed me with thy sacred Flesh, to rejoice and refresh me with thy Heavenly Cup, and to lay down thy Soul for the Price of my Redemption !

I heartily thank thee, O infinite Sweetness, for those pledges of thy Love, tokens of thy Favour, and seals of the General Pardon of my Sins. I vow by the help of thy strengthening Grace, henceforth to abstain from all appearance of evil, and never willingly to offend thee in Thought, Word or Deed. How should I sin against thee, who hast died for me, and washed my Sins in thy Blood, which now I have received to my unspeakable Comfort ?

O admirable and hidden Grace of this Sacrament, who is able to comprehend so high and so sacred a Mystery, which passeth the Understanding even of Angels !

Re-

Rejoyce O my Soul, and give
Thanks unto God, for so noble a Gift
and singular Comfort left unto thee
in this Valley of Tears.

Affect me, O Christ, with a taste
of this Food, and continue the relish
of it in the mouth of my Soul: Make
me to loath for ever hereafter the
Baits of the World, the Flesh, and the
Devil; that so my Heart and Affection-
ons may be firmly knit unto thee.

Remember I pray thee the Catho-
lick Church; look upon her with
thine Eyes of Compassion, that she
may triumph in her Afflictions, and
at last overcome the Temptations of
Satan, by the help of thy Spirit.

Enlarge her Bounds, make up her
Breaches, furnish her Pastors, and
knit the Hearts of her Members in
true Love, the bond of Perfection.

Say to the North give, and to the
South restore, and speedily accomplish
the number of thine Elect, and so
Lord Jesu come quickly.

Crown the Queen's Majesty, I hum-
bly

bly beseech thee, with all Royal Graces befitting her place : Grant her the Spirit of Wisdom and Council, the Spirit of Holiness and the Fear of the Lord, that she may know how to go in and out before this great and mighty People. Make her as an Angel of God, to discern between good and evil. Establish her Throne, that she may advance thy Kingdom ; and when she hath finished her course here on Earth, let her inherit the Crown of Righteousness, and reign with thee World without end.

Endue the Lords of her Majesties Council, the Nobles, Peers, and Judges of this Realm, with Wisdom from above, that they may rule as in thy fear, according to thy Word.

Bless all the Bishops and faithful Ministers of the Land, that they may preserve the purity of thy Worship, and carefully feed thy Flock.

O thou most tender and compassionate Lord, vouchsafe in Mercy, I humbly beseech thee, to look upon all

all thy Children of Affliction ; comfort the comfortless ; bind up the broken hearted ; relieve the oppressed ; be a Father to the Fatherless, a Husband to the Widow, and a Physician to those that are sick : Let them lose nothing by their Afflictions, but only the dross of Sin and Corruption ; and in due time do thou work such a gracious Deliverance for them, as may be most for thy Glory, and the eternal good of their Souls.

Lord, give me Grace, I beseech thee, in this my day, to learn and to follow the things that belong to my Peace ; to accept the Salvation now offered unto me, and to bring forth fruits worthy of amendment of Life : that so at last through thy Mercy, I may be receiv'd into thy glorious Kingdom, there to sing with the blessed Angels for ever and ever, the sacred Song of the glorious Lamb. So be it, dear Father, for the Merits of thy Son, by the powerful Operation of the Holy Ghost ; with whose assistance

assistance I sum up all my requests,
and tender them unto thee, in that
Form of Prayer which thy Son my
Saviour hath taught me saying, Our
Father which art in Heaven, &c.

LINK VIII.

ETernal, most Mighty, and most
Glorious God, unto whom all
Hearts are open, and from whom no
Secrets are hid, look down in Mercy
upon thy poor afflicted and distressed
Servant, who am here straitned with
Miseries, and beset with Sorrows on
every side.

I confess I am unworthy to appear
in thy sight, to have any converse
with so holy a God; for mine Iniqui-
ties are increased over my head, and
have long since reached unto the Hea-
vens; I can as well reckon the drops
of the Ocean, as number my Sins,
therefore I am the more afraid of thy
Wrath. What can I expect but that the

Good-

Goodness of God which I have despised, should utterly forsake me, and that my patience and forbearance which I have O'erbus'd, should be turn'd into fury and indignation against me? I tremble, O Father, and am even confounded, when remember my heinous Offences, for which it hath seemed good unto thee to turn away thy favourable Countenance from me.

O my God, I am sore troubled, I go mourning all the day long, and thou regardest me not; I pine and anguish with grief, I am in great distress, my Soul is bowed down to the lust; awake therefore, O Lord, arise and cast me not off for ever. I must confess I have justly deserved that thou shouldest destroy me from off the face of the Earth, and appoint me my Portion amongst the damned in Hell. But though I have received the sentence of Death in my self, yet with thee there is Mercy and Forgiveness that thou mayest be feared. Pardon O my God, the grievous Sins I have committed

against thee, and for Jesus sake repit a
ceive me again into thy Favour.

O my God, of my self I having fallen, by the assistance of thee I must the m
rise : Lend me therefore (I beseech Backf^t
thee) the helping hand of thy Grace be pr
that may again lift me up. Quicke Soul
me with the sense of thy Favour, and sa
deliver me from this imminent Dan^t Loc
ger ; so shall I sing Hymns to th^e the f
praise of that God, who hath de^d Inter
so lovingly and bountifully with me thee,

Give me power, O Lord, to put and S
away the evil of my doings, that I O let
my Person being pleasing in th Son b
sight, thou mayest hear my Prayer stifica
and accept my Thanksgivings. Send thy g
down from above that sweet Compan m
forter, who alone can speak Peace t Peace
my Soul. Hide thy Face from mis Temp
Iniquities, and blot out all my Mi of Li
deeds. My

Remember not I pray thee the Sins and
of my Youth, nor the Transgressions grieved
of my unruly and unbridled Age sever
but declare thy self mindful of them w

ake repitity and Compassion which thou hast
hewed to Mankind from the begin-
ning of the World, and according to
the multitude of thy Mercies heal my
beseech Backslidings. Return, O Lord, and
Gracbe propitious unto me ; deliver my
Quicke Soul from the fear of thy Judgment,
and save me for thy Mercy sake.

Look upon me (I beseech thee) in
to the face of thine Anointed, whose
Intercession is far more powerful with
thee, than that of *Moses*, or *Aaron*,
and *Samuel* could be for thy People.
O let the Righteousness of thy dear
Son be imputed unto me for my Ju-
stification, when I shall appear before
thy great Tribunal ; For this alone
can make me blessed and happy. Speak
Peace to my Conscience, rebuke the
Tempter, and raise me up to newness
of Life.

My desires to do thy Will are cold
and imperfect : This I lament and
grieve for, that they are not more
fervent. O manifest thy strength in
my weakness, and look upon me with
Pit

the Favour thou usest to bear to thy Children ; for thy Loving-kindness is better than Life. Smite my flinty Heart with the Hammer of thy Word, mollifie it also with the Drops of thy Mercies, and Dew of thy Spirit ; make it humble, fleshy, soft, and obedient. Affect it (I intreat thee) with the love of thy Law, that therein may be all my Delight.

Let neither the Smiles of the World allure me, nor the Frowns thereof affright me from thee, but in all these things let me be more than a Conquerour through him that loved me. O give me an understanding Heart and an inflamed Soul to thy Truth, so shall I live quietly in the midst of my Calamities, and chearfully end my days in thy fear.

Save me in my Dangers, feed me in my Necessities, favour me in my Enterprises, and give me success in all my Actions, that so I may (if it please thee O Father of Mercies) be delivered out of this Misery in which I am plunged.

O my God, let the Soul of thy Servant be precious in thy sight : Take it into thy Protection ; embrace it with thy tender Compassion ; let it be as dear to thee as the Apple of mine Eye : And seeing thou hast made of a spiritual and heavenly nature, give me Grace (I beseech thee) to renounce the World and all the Vanities that it adores ; that I may consider that the Gold, the Silver, the Jewels, hereof the apparent Beauty deceives the Eyes of Carnal Men, is nothing else but hardned Earth, that will crumble away and dissolve into dust ; that so may remember, that after my Death, all these things will profit me no more, than the Earth and the bones that shall cover my Carkass.

Blessed God ! that hast set before me in my Eyes the vanity and unconstancy of all things under the Sun, that I might labour to attain to solid and everlasting Advantages : Thou hast placed and reserved in Heaven an inexhaustible treasure of Riches, un-

corruptible Crowns of Glory, and eternal Triumph, that thither I might transport my Heart and Affections; and that with an holy earnestness, I might desire to look upon thy beautiful and glorious Face. O whence shall I see my self in that blessed Paradise, where I shall be free from the Temptations of the World, the Enticements of the Flesh, and from the fiery Darts of the Devil? In thy good time, O Lord, deliver me from my Miseries, and take me to thy self Honour me with thy Saints in those Mansions, where I shall shine as the Sun in his Glory. Here I live by Faith, but there I shall experimentally see and feel, what I have believed. Shew me therefore, O Lord, thy Salvation, and let me be happy in thy presence for ever. Amen.

LINK IX.

O Most High and Eternal God, by whose Power all things subsist, and before whose Majesty all Creatures tremble, vouchsafe at this time I beseech thee) to look down upon thee thy poor Servant, who do here humbly cast my self at thy footstool, imploring thy Mercy towards me, for Jesus sake, in this my miserable Condition. Were it not that thou hast commanded me, I durst not approach as thy presence, so corrupt is my Nature, so many and so heinous are my Offences.

What can I expect from so holy and just a God as thou art, but that thou shouldst spurn me from thy footstool into the bottomless Pit ? Yet seeing, O Lord, thou hast promised Mercy and Pardon to such as truly repent, I do here humbly present myself at the Throne of thy Grace, desiring freely to confess the Iniquities

which I have committed against thee.

I acknowledge that through the whole course of my Life I have been a rebellious Wretch, and have wearied thee with my Sins, whilst thou hast loaded me with thy Mercies. All the Benefits I have received from thee have not melted me into Tears for my wretched Unkindness; so that I tremble and fear, lest thou shouldst utterly reject me.

Those good Duties which thou hast strictly commanded, I have sinfully neglected; and those great Evils which thou hast expressly forbidden, I have frequently committed: I have not valued thy Promises, nor regarded thy terrible Threatnings: Thy Mercies have not allured me to Obedience, nor thy Judgments deter'd me from Sin.

All the Faculties of my Soul are defiled; My Understanding is darkened, my Will perverted, and my Affections are bent wholly to Evil. The Sins of the Heathens, who live without

out God in the World, are small in comparison of mine : So that the state of my Soul is sad and deplorable.

I have so demeaned my self, as if neither feared thine Anger, nor desired thy Favour : And though thou hast sometimes afflicted me by Disappointments and Crosses, yet still I have continued in a course of Rebellion against thee.

And here, O Lord, I do with a broken and bleeding Heart bewail that grievous Sin of *, which I have so often committed, to the defiling of my Soul, the wounding of my Conscience, and the dishonour of thy great and glorious Name : For this thou mightest most justly have cut me off in the very act of my Sin, and cast me into the Pit of Destruction. But seeing thou hast hitherto spared me, O do not now destroy me, when with unfeigned Grief for my Sins I return unto thee.

* Here confess
your special secret
Sin.

O my God, wherefore hidest thou

thy Face, and holdest me for thine
Enemy? Wilt thou break a Leaf dri-
ven to and fro with the Wind, and
wilt thou pursue the dry Stubble? for
thou writest bitter things against me,
and makest me possess the Sins of my
Youth. The Eye of my Mind is
darkened at the sense of thy Revenge,
and the Eye of my Body grown dim,
and consumed with Grief. I am weary
and worn out with Sighs and Groans.

How long wilt thou turn away thy
Countenance from me, and set me up
as a Mark to shoot at? How long
wilt thou be absent, for ever? And
shall thy Jealousie burn like Fire? How
long shall I take Counsel in my Soul,
and be thus sore vexed within me?
O miserable Wretch that I am, who
shall deliver me from this body of Sin?
Thou which art the great Shepherd,
that leftest the ninety and nine in the
Wilderness, to seek that Sheep which
was strayed from thy Fold: Come
Bl ssed Jesus and bring me home again,
for I earnestly seek thee.

This

This very Day is a Day of blackness and heaviness, of gloominess and sad affliction unto thy Servant ; Deliver me, O Lord, in this time of trouble ; preserve and keep me that I fall not into Evil, nor faint not under my pressures. As thou hast set me up for a Mark of thy Justice, so make me also a Monument of thy Compassion and Mercy. Recall me from my erroneous ways, and lead me in the Paths of the Righteous, shine upon me with thy Favour, beautifie me with thy Grace, assist me with thy Help, so shall I be both glad and secure.

Many are the Impediments I meet with, that hinder me from doing my Duty to thee ; O quicken my dull and heavy Soul, enlighten my dark and blind Understanding : I am a stranger on Earth, and know not the way to the Celestial Paradise, O direct me, I beseech thee, and hide not thy Commandments from me. Suffer me not to lose Courage, and to yield

to the present Temptations with which I am assaulted, but give unto thy Servant the shield of Faith, whereby I may be able to quench the fiery Darts of the Devil.

Sanctifie me, I beseech thee, throughout by thy Spirit, and make me to become a new Creature. Enable me by thy Grace to conquer my Corruptions, and to perform my Duty, rather out of Love, than out of Fear and Compulsion.

O Lord, remove from my Heart the Cares of this Life, that Death may never surprize me unawares ; that my Soul being totally freed from these briars and thorns, I may be always ready at every moment, to leave this miserable World with transports of Joy, to enter into the Celestial Canaan, where the Milk and Honey of Divine Pleasures, and of Eternal Comforts do flow.

Be thou my King, O sweet Jesus ; cause me so to worship and fear thee, that at thy coming I may be one of that

that number to whom thou wilt say,
Come ye blessed of my Father, inher-
it the Kingdom prepared for you
from the beginning of the World :
For thine is the Kingdom, the Power
and the Glory, for ever and ever.
Amen.

LINK X.

O Most Mighty God, I acknow-
ledge with confusion of Face,
that I have provoked thee to Wrath
and Indignation against me, and that
now I justly feel the effects of this
thy Displeasure ; for thou seest to
cast me off, and deliver me to the
Will of mine Enemies.

My Sins are so secret to the Eye of
the World, that to Men I seem to be
what I am not ; but thou, O God,
art he, to whom all Creatures must
render an account : Against thee I
confess I have grievously offended
and done Evil in thy sight, therefore
it's

it's not without cause that I suffer these heavy things from thy Hands : Righteous art thou, O Lord, and just in thy Judgments.

But, O my God, turn from thy fierce Anger, and shew me again the Light of thy Countenance. Forsake me not in this my Distress, but make haste to help me : O succour me, and pardon my Sins, which have brought this Calamity upon me. Lighten mine Eyes that I may see some way of escape, lest being oppressed with the sense of my Misery, I be swallowed up of Sorrow and Grief.

Deliver me, I beseech thee, from the Craft and Violence of Satan, who is ready to rend my Soul as a Lion, that is greedy of his prey : Bent he is to tear me in pieces, if there be none to redeem, and deliver me out of his paw ; so great is his rage and fierceness against me. O look upon me with thine Eyes of Compassion, and protect me from those Angels of Darkness that seek to destroy me.

En-

Enlighten my Understanding with the Light of thy Spirit, that I may discover the ugliness of Sin, and abominate it with all my Heart, that I may esteem it as that cursed Fire, that hath kindled thy Wrath, as the executioner that crucified the Lord of Glory, and spilt his most precious Blood.

O that my Soul were sufficiently vexed for Sin, whose Fruits are so bitter. Thou that fetchest Water out of the hardest Rocks, draw out of my Heart the Tears of sincere Repentance, which thou usest to accept. To many penitent Sinners thou hast shew'd Compassion since the beginning of the World ; thou never rejectedst any that sought thee with a sorrowful Soul, and therefore I beseech thee close not the Door of Mercy on me that hath been opened to receive so many before me. Cast me not off as a person in whom thou hast no delight ; once more make trial of me, whether I will not serve thee as I ought. Assist me with thy Grace,

and

and I will from henceforth keep thy ways, and walk more closely with thee ; I will keep my self from the temptation of that bosom Sin, with which I have been so often defiled.

Be pleased, O God, so to incline my Heart, that I may serve thee in fear, and rejoice before thee with reverence ; that I may adore thy Son, submit and be obedient to him ; that I may receive his Doctrine, acquiesce in his Laws, and never count my self safe, until I be assur'd that thou thro' him art reconciled unto me. Lord, let my Repentance be such, that by my Sighs and Groans I may give thee no rest till thou return and have Mercy upon me.

Uphold my goings in thy Paths, that my footsteps slip not ; that neither my Desires nor Actions deviate from the way that is right. If the Devil, the World, and my own Flesh tempt and stir me up to any Sin, let the dread of thy Divine Majesty seize upon my Soul : Let Death enter into

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my Mind, and fill me with such an holy Fear, as may hinder me from the committing of it.

O Lord, I live now in a difficult time, not knowing which way to turn me, but mine Eyes are lift up towards thee : Thou art a gracious God, full of Compassion, and righteous, let therefore thy Counsel direct me, that I may carry my self as I ought. And since I am compassed about with many Temptations, enrich my Heart with Prudence, that I may guide my ways with Discretion ; and though I be violently assaulted, make me constant in thy Fear, and patient in my Sufferings. Do thou so fix and establish my Heart, that no evil tidings may make me afraid. Let the flames of Affliction render my Faith more pure, my Life more holy, and my Zeal more sincere and earnest.

Thou seest, O my God, that the Age in which I live, is wonderfully corrupt ; that the Earth is inclined to Vice, and that Sin reigns in all places.

O

O strengthen me therefore with such Antidotes as may preserve me from the infection of the Times. Let thy Providence defend me, thy Word instruct me, and thy Promises comfort me. Give me neither Poverty nor Riches, but nourish me with Food convenient.

Grant that whatsoever alteration shall happen here below, I may seriously meditate upon the changes of Time, the variety of the Seasons, the unconstancy of the World, and the strange disturbances of the Earth, as Remembrances of the last Change that shall happen to my Person.

O Merciful God, I know not how soon thou wilt come to knock at the Door of my House, give me Grace I beseech thee, to employ my self in thy Work with Diligence, Faithfulness, and Zeal, that I may not be troubled at thy Glorious Coming.

As thou hast appointed the Hour of my Death, thou hast also ordained the manner of it. O suffer not my Soul

Soul to be snatched away by force on a sudden, but that I may have time to commit it into thy Merciful Hands. Grant that I may end my Days with all Tranquillity and Satisfaction of Mind ; that I may always have a perfect use of my Senses, and a certain perswasion of thy Grace and Favour ; that I may glorifie thy Name, and edifie those about me, until the last Moment of my Departure.

Conduct me (while I live here) in the way that leads unto Glory, where in thy Presence I shall have Fulness of Joy. This Happiness, O Lord, is only in thy Power to bestow ; vouchsafe, I beseech thee, to give it unto me, for the Merits of thy only Son my Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

LINK XI.

O Sovereign Lord of Heaven and Earth, thy Power is great, and thy Understanding infinite, thy Goodness

ness is incomprehensible, and thy Mercy above all thy Works ; when I consider thy Greatness I tremble ; when I look upon thy Wisdom I admire ; but as oft as I meditate on thy Goodness and Mercy I am emboldened to approach thy Throne. Behold me, I beseech thee, with a serene Countenance, and reject me not, though altogether unworthy : For,

I confess to my shame, that I have forsaken thy Law, and not walk'd in thy Judgments ; that I have broken thy Statutes, and not kept thy Commandments. I have not sought to honour and fear thee, nor to put my whole trust and confidence in thee. I have been swayed too much by my Desires and Lusts, and have turned from thy ways to mine own. My wanderings are many, my failings innumerable, and my Soul is even dead to spiritual things.

When I compare my former Estate with my present Condition, I pour out my Soul within me ; for very Grief
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I fly the society of Men, and seek out places that are fit for Mourners. O that mine Eyes were a well-spring of Tears, that I might weep abundantly for all my Transgressions.

My greatest Grief proceeds from my not grieving enough, and my most sensible Affliction is because I cannot feel a Repentance answerable to the greatness and number of my Sins. O my God, wherefore is it that I do not embrace thee with a lively Faith? that I do not wrestle with thee by Prayers, Supplications and Tears? and that I continue not in these Devotions, until I have obtained thy most precious Blessings, until thou hast changed my Being? I perceive to my comfort thou hast not wholly forsaken me, O perfect thy Work in me that thou hast begun; it proceeds from thy Mercy, which is not for a moment, but endures for ever.

O Divine Saviour! thou art rich in Goodness; thine Arms are always wide open to receive thy poor Servants
that

that draw near unto thee by a true and serious Repentance. I should be worse than an Infidel, if I did call in question my future Salvation, seeing the Father hath not spared thee for me, although thou art his only and beloved Son, the Brightness of his Glory, and the express Image of his Person. Seeing that thou, O most merciful Lord, hast willingly suffer'd the most shameful Death of the Cross, and spilt thy most Precious Blood, to wash away all my Sins, how marvellous are thy Works, and worthy of the continual admiration of Men and Angels? Thou hast drunk up the very Dregs of God's Fury, that I might never taste thereof.

O Glorious Lord, how precious is thy Death unto me? It is the Payment of all my Debts, and the Atonement of all my Crimes: It hath not only drawn me out of an abyss of Misery, freed me from Eternal Damnation, and the infinite Torments of the bottomless Pit, but it hath purchased for me a Celestial

stial Paradise with all its unspeakable Delights.

O Blessed Jesus, as for my sake thou hast engaged in many Encounters, and hast vouchsafed unto me a share of thy Victory, grant me also a share in thy Glorious Ascension and Triumph. O when shall I hear that Divine Wisdom that drops from thy sacred Lips ! and when shall I see thee sitting upon the Throne of thy Glorious Majesty, where thousand thousands wait upon thee, and ten Millions worship thee ! When shall I enter into the Glorious Company of Saints and Blessed Spirits, that sing forth thy Praises, and cast their most precious Crowns at thy Feet.

O Glorious Monarch, that art now in thy Kingdom, forget not thy poor Servant, who am now overwhelmed with the sorrows of this miserable Life. Let not the Songs of the holy Angels, and the Applauses of the glorified Spirits, hinder thee from listening to my Sighs and Groans. O when wilt thou loose

loose me from this Chain of Misery ?
When wilt thou carry me above the
reach of the Storms and Tempests of
this troublesome Sea, where Cares and
Griefs do not cease to devour my
Soul ?

Thou hast been pleased to hide
from my knowledge the time and place
of my Death, give me Grace therefore
O merciful God, to be always ready to
answer thy Call, and to obey thy holy
Commands ; that I may be as a Sol-
dier who waits only for the Signal to
march to the Encounter.

O that I might live in such a man-
ner, as if I were always ready to dye:
By this means Death will be joyful
unto me, when it comes as thy Ser-
vant and Messenger, and I shall fol-
low it willingly, being fully perswa-
ded that it will lead me into thy Glo-
rious Kingdom, where I shall sit with
the Patriarchs, Prophets, Apostles,
Confessors and Martyrs, and with all
the Princes, Kings, and Monarchs, that
have lived in thy Fear, and are dead
in

n thy Favour ; where I shall for ever solemnize the Divine Nuptials of the Lamb, and shall be inflam'd with his love ; where I shall behold God Face to Face, be changed into his Glorious image, and satisfied with his Divine Likeness. O Lord, give me Grace to think continually upon this joyful day, which shall put a period to the current of time.

And seeing I know not when this beautiful day shall break forth, grant that I may expect it every moment, that I may provide holy Oyl in my Lamp ; Faith, Hope, and Charity in my Heart ; that this Lamp may be ready and always burning ; that my Soul may be clothed with the Wedding-Garment, with Righteousness and Innocency ; that I may not slumber in the vain Delights of the World, in the Pleasures of the Flesh, but that I may spend the Days and the Nights in Watching and Prayer.

O Heavenly Father ! Strengthen me with thy Grace, and stablish me

with thy Spirit that I may be constant and assiduous
in thy service to the end, that neither into me
Height, nor Depth, nor Principality infinite
ties nor Powers, nor Things present of pure
nor Things to come, nor Terrors, nor yet the
Afflictions, nor Life, nor Death, nor love to
any other Creature whatsoever, may Pity
be able to change my Mind from thee, a
Truth, or to separate me from the love of God,
which is in Christ Jesus. Amen.

LINK XII.

O Eternal and Omnipotent God of one
thou art Infinite in thy Being thou
and Glory : So resplendent is thy Might
Honour and Majesty, so immense thy most
Strength, so illustrious thy Beauty, that
I, Dust and Ashes (who consider my more
Sins with horrour) tremble in my approach
to thee. O let not my Soul be wounded with a desperate sense of thy
thy hot Displeasure, but grant that in got the
confessing my Sin, I may find easie remission
and

nd assurance of Pardon. Stretch out
neither into me the Golden Scepter of thy
cipal infinite Mercies ; for though thou art
resent of purer Eyes than to behold Iniquity,
s, notwithstanding thou art pleased to manifest thy
, no love to such as truly repent.

Pity me, O my God, I beseech
thee, and enter not into a severe ac-
ount with thy Servant ; O be not my
adversary ; contend not in Judgment
with me ; for if thou should'st call me
to the Bar of thy Justice, I have no-
thing to put in against the dreadful
sentence, nothing of my own that can
appease thy Anger, or abate the Fury
of one stroak of thine Arm. Hadst
Being thou not laid Help upon one that is
thy Mighty, that is able to save to the ut-
most, I must have perished to all Eter-
nity, for I know not any upon Earth
more vile than my self.

Thou hast been a bountiful God
unto me, but I have been an ungrate-
ful Wretch, and in my Prosperity for-
got thee. How have I yielded to my
unbridled Lusts in the use of thy Crea-
tures,

tures? and how often have I run from confessing my Sin, to the committing of it? I have despised thy Patience, abused thy Goodness, and turned thy Grace into Wantonness.

Thy Hand, O Lord, is justly upon me, and yet the things which I suffer are far inferiour to my Deserts; therefore I am content, without murmuring, that thou visit my Transgression with the Rod, and mine Iniquities with Stripes: But O Lord God, I beseech thee, continue thy Loving-kindness still towards thy Servant.

Far be it from me to complain of thy Justice; I adore thy Goodness and Wisdom. O Lord, how favourable are thy Punishments, if compared with my Deservings! Thou dost not punish me as a Judge, but chastise me as a loving Father. Thou beholdest my Affliction, and Poverty, and knowest better than I, what is good and expedient for me. Enable me I beseech thee, by the Power of thy Spirit, that in these my pressures I

in front not from thee, but expect deliverance
mittin from thy bountiful Hand. Make thy
atience face to shine upon thy Servant, that
ned the mists being disspell'd, I may again
be refreshed with the bright Beams of
y upo thy Favour.

I suff Affect my Heart, O God, with a
there filial Fear, that I may make it my de-
urmum light to serve thee, so shall I find no
ression labour or difficulty in thy Precepts.
iquitie Grant that renouncing all Impiety and
, I be Worldly Lusts, I may live soberly,
g-kind justly and religiously in this present
World; that I may apply my Thoughts
ain to all thosé Things that are vertuous
ess and worthy of Praise, so shall I never
urable commit that great Offence, for which
d with thou mightest justly abhor me.

O Lord, it is thy Grace that must
ise m make me obedient: Give therefore
oldes what thou commandest, and then com-
know mand what thou wilt. O that my
d an Ways, Actions, Speeches and Coun-
I bes fels, were so directed by thy Spirit,
y Spi that I might keep thy Statutes. Free
I fal me, I beseech thee, from the Bondage
no

of Sin, and the Slavery of my Lustful Affections, that I may walk before thee at liberty, and serve thee with a willing Mind.

O feed me with the Bread of thy Heavenly Word, refresh and strengthen my Soul with thy holy Sacraments, so these shall my Heart rejoice, and my Mouth shall be filled with thy praise. Let thy Rivers of Waters which flow from thy Sanctuary, so moisten and comfort my barren Soul, that I may bring forth such Fruits as may be pleasing unto thee.

O Lord thou knowest my Frailties, no Tree more subject to the violence of Tempests, than I am to the fury and rage of the Devil, who continually labours to deprive me of my juice, and devest me of my greenness. But O let not the scorching heat of Temptation wither, nor the storm of Persecution beat off one leaf of Grace with which thou hast beautified my Soul; but in the midst of every trial let me still flourish and retain my Life and Vigour.

Let not the supposed Happiness of
Evil-doers cause me to murmur or fret
at their Power, Wealth and Success,
nor yet be envious because they pro-
per in their way, and bring their De-
vices to pass. O my God, Let not
these outward things be my sole and
utmost Reward, rather let my lot be
to suffer with thy People here in this
Life, that I may be happy with them
in that which is to come : With the
hope of this Reward I will sustain my
self in the midst of my Pressures, be-
ing fully perswaded that tho' I want
here upon Earth, I shall be satisfied
with thy Glory, Joy and Immortality
hereafter.

Give me Grace to comfort my self,
in the expectation of that blessed
Estate, where I shall neither hunger
nor thirst, where I shall love thee
without interruption, and serve thee
without any lett, where I shall be in
the company of the glorified Saints,
who have Palms in their Hands, Crowns
upon their Heads, and Praise, and by

of Sin, and the Slavery of my Lustful Affections, that I may walk before thee at liberty, and serve thee with a willing Mind.

O feed me with the Bread of thy Heavenly Word, refresh and strengthen my Soul with thy holy Sacraments, so shall my Heart rejoice; and my Mouth shall be filled with thy praise. Let Rivers of Waters which flow from thy Sanctuary, so moisten and comfort my barren Soul, that I may bring forth such Fruits as may be pleasing unto thee.

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in the expectation of that blessed
Estate, where I shall neither hunger
nor thirst, where I shall love thee
without interruption, and serve thee
without any lett, where I shall be in
the company of the glorified Saints,
who have Palms in their Hands, Crowns
upon their Heads, and Praises in their

Mouths, where I shall be with the falls
of thousands of Angels that are clothed dwelling
with Light and Glory, and with burn-
ing Seraphims that surround thy He-
avenly Throne, where I shall live with And
thee O Father of Mercies, and with lift up
thy Son, and Holy Spirit, for ever
and ever. Amen.

LINK XIII.

O Most High and most Holy, Glori-
ous and Eternal Lord God,
the Great and Almighty Creator of
Heaven and Earth, who hast establish-
ed the World by thy Wisdom, and
stretch'd out the Heavens by thy Dis-
cretion ; who dispensest the influences
of the Pleiades, and loosest the bonds
of Orion, and causest both the out-
goings of the Morning and Evening
to rejoice : The great Shepherd and
Watchman over *Israel*, whose Prov-
idence is a Cloud over me by Day, and
a Pillar of Fire by Night, so as no evil
befalls

th the befalls me, nor plague comes nigh my
lothed dwelling ; To thee does thy poor Pe-
titioner desire to address himself at
the Throne of thy Grace.

And seeing this Morning thou hast
lift up my Head, and given me oppor-
tunity of seeking thy Face, to thee I
desire to lift up my Heart, and direct
my Prayer to the God of my Life.

Thou renewest thy Mercies on me
every Morning, and thy Faithfulness
every Moment ; fillest my Habitation
with Joy, and Tabernacle with Peace,
when thou mightest most justly have
stretched out upon me the line of Con-
fusion, and stones of Emptiness, have
cast me out of the pale of thy merciful
Protection, yea into the infernal Pit
of everlasting Perdition. It's the Lords
Mercies I am not consumed that I am
not now roaring in Hell, under the
pressures of easeless, endless, and re-
mediless Torments. *ab*

I confess in my first Creation thou
didst make me upright, but alas I have
sought out many inventions, and by

finning against thee have come short
of the Image, Favour and Glory of
God.

The Guilt of Original Sin hath invaded my Person, and the Pollution thereof so infected my Nature, that though I should wash my self with Nitre and Sope, yea with Snow-water I could not be clean.

The very Foundation of my natural Building was laid in Corruption, and I lie weltring in my Blood till Grace faith to me, live. My Heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked. I labour not only under an indisposition, but an utter opposition to all Spiritual Good.

Custom of Sin hath even laid me under a necessity of finning, so that the Ethiopian may as well change his blackmore hue, and the Leopard his spots, as I habituated to evil, ever learn to do well.

I have sinned against the Love of the Father, Merit of the Son, Vertue and Operation of the Holy Spirit : I have di-

distrusted thy Power, abused thy Patience, challenged thy Justice, and lightly esteem'd thy Salvation; so that if the Lord had laid Judgment to the Line, and Righteousness to the Plummet, the Womb might at first have stifled me, and the Knees prevented me, yea it had been just with thee to have caused me to spend all those days in Hell, in weeping, wailing, and gnashing of Teeth, which I have spent on Earth in sinning against thee.

The Lord would have healed me, but I would not be healed, reconciled me, but I would not be reconcil'd, the thundring Alarms of the Law on Mount *Sinai* have not awakened me, nor the sweet Charms on Mount *Sion* allured me; I have neither listened to thy still Voice, nor trembled at thine Earthquake, but have added security and hardness of Heart to all my Iniquities.

Christ hath oft called, but I have refused, knock'd but I have not opened to him; yea, thou hast piped to

me

me and I have not danced, mourned
to me and I have not lamented.

Grace hath been long offer'd, yet it
is not accepted and welcomed by me;
but while thou hast opened to me the
door of thy Grace, I have shut the door
of my Affections against thee. How
many cursed retreats have I made to-
wards *Sodom* since first I set my face to
Sion? After my solemn Covenant with
thee, I have renewed my agreement
with Sin; as if Christ and *Belial*
might stand in conjunction.

How many have been my declen-
sions in Grace, and breakings forth of
Corruption? How many my omissions
of Good, and commissions of Evil?
My best Graces are attended with ma-
ny Infirmities; How ignorant my
Knowledge, how weak and doubting
my Faith, how wavering my Hope,
how feigned my Repentance, how cold
and remiss my Prayers?

My spiritual stock hath not been
duely and wisely improved, but my
Talent has been buried in a Napkin,
and

and hid under a Bushel, so that instead of increasing Godward I have declined exceedingly, going backwards towards the evening, and not having my goings prepared as the morning.

I have not carried it as a Pilgrim and Stranger on Earth, but fondly dreaming of an Immortality in Nature, I have not been warned by others Mortality to provide for Eternity, numbering my Days, and applying my Heart unto Wisdom.

Truly (Lord) when I consider the number of my Sins, or the heinous nature and crimson aggravations of them, my own Thoughts overwhelm me, they being so great as I cannot well accent them, and so many, that they come as near infinite as number can make them ; and verily, the serious Consideration of thy setting them in the Light of thy Countenance is enough to sink me into an everlasting Sea of Despair.

But (Gracious God) my Sins are neither so many nor yet so great, but thou

thou knowest well how to pardon them. Though I have sinned against thy Mercy (which is my Terrour) yet I have not sinned above it, which is my Comfort.

O magnifie the Riches of thy Grace in my Absolution, and not the severity of thy Justice in my Condemnation. Wash and bathe my black Soul in the Blood of thy Son, that so of a scarlet-crimson Sinner I may become a milk-white Saint.

Dip thy Pen in that most precious Blood, and cancel all mine Iniquities; Swallow up the vast Mountain of my Transgressions in the boundless and bottomless Ocean of his invaluable Merits. Expect not (I pray thee) Satisfaction from me, who can make none, but accept it in my Ransom, my Surety, who hath paid the utmost Farthing to Justice's demands.

Does Justice plead against me? O let Mercy intercede for me. Does the Law turn accuser and condemn me? O let the Gospel become my Advocate

to

to acquit me. I have indeed broken thy Law, but Christ hath fulfilled it; I have deserved thy Wrath, but he hath undergone it; I have shut my self out of Heaven, but he hath purchas'd it for me.

Thou (O Lord) hast sworn by thy self that thou desirest not the Death of a Sinner; O let not thy Vengeance triumph in my Confusion; but say to my Soul that thou art my Salvation. Turn the stream of my Thoughts, Desires and Delights, into a spiritual Channel, and bless me by turning me from all mine Iniquities. Let me carry Sin as my Burden, not wear it as my Crown; and let all my Convictions tend to, and end in Conversion.

Cause me to look down on my self with an Eye of Sorrow, and mourn, that I may look up to Christ with an Eye of Faith, and believe. O let me behold a crucified Christ now in the Sorrows of Repentance, lest I behold

hold a glorified Christ hereafter in the Sorrows of Despair.

Break me (O Lord) that thou mayest bind me up, wound me that thou mayest heal me, and subdue mine Iniquities, while thou drownest my Transgressions in the depths of the Sea. Save me (I beseech thee) not only from the Punishment but the Power, the Damnation but Dominion of every beloved Lust. Break my Covenant with Death, and let not my Agreement with Hell stand. Lord do not only imbitter to me the pleasures of Sin, but also enamour me with the beauties of Holiness.

Inflame me with the love of thy self, that I may chuse thee for my portion and heritage, as having none in Heaven but thee, nor any on Earth in comparison with thee. Enable me to esteem thy ways as my treasures and delight, and to make Religion the only choice of my Soul. Let the Load-stone of thy Grace silently draw me

me that I may run after thee, and cause me to follow thee fully in all ways of active and passive Obedience. O help me to cleave to the Lord with full purpose of Heart, and to resolve whatever others do, to serve thee.

Make me partaker of the Divine Nature, that Christ may live in me as the hope of my Glory. Let me close with him for Holiness as well as for Happiness, and bestow upon me the Grace, as well as the Mercy of the Covenant.

Possess my Soul with the excellency of Christ, that I may hunger and thirst more after Communion with him, that I may hearken to the calls of his Spirit by the voice of the Gospel, and not stand out when he would have me come in. To me believing let him become precious.

Help me (O Lord) to live more by Faith, to deny my self, and to watch continually my deceitful Heart; to despise the World, to mind Heaven

ven and Eternity, to prepare for my Bridegroom's approach, and Saviour's blessed appearance.

Let me not be carried away with the stream of abounding Iniquity, but be able to row against the Tide of Corruption within, and Wind of Opposition without. Vouchsafe me a Carriage becoming every Condition, and let my Affections always be evenly tun'd to thy administrations. O let not the Sun of Prosperity ever cause me to wax so fat as to throw off the Cloak of Religion, and let ~~the wind of~~ Persecution cause me to gird it the faster about me.

Fix me (O Lord) immovably on thy self, and make me unchangeable amidst all the changes of this mutable World. Though I fall into Suffering, yet let me not fall into Sin, but choose rather the greatest Affliction before the least Transgression against thee. Let my last days be my best days, both as to the exercise of Grace, and

and injoyment of Comfort. The nigher I come to the Grave, the nigher let me approach to Heaven, and as my Body tends more downward to Earth, the place of Corruption, so let my Soul move upward to Heaven, the place of Perfection. Neither let the Sun of my Life go down in a Cloud, but its last shines be brightest and most glorious.

Cause me to pass the whole time of my sojourning here in thy Fear, that at last I may dye in thy Favour, rest in thy Peace, rise by thy Power, and reign in thy Glory.

And since I am a Member of that Mystical Body whereof Christ is the Head, I entreat thy Fatherly Care and Compassion towards thy whole visible Church.

Build thou up the Walls of *Sion*, and gather in the out-casts of *Israel*. Be a Cloud in thy Peoples Assemblies, and on all their Glory a defence. Heal the dilapidations of thy Sanctuary,

ctuary, and let thy House no longer
lye waste.

Restore thy Church to its pristine
Condition, so shall the Congregation
of thy People compass thee about ;
Religion, which is now almost ex-
tinct, shall again flourish ; and thy
Worship, which is now dishonoured,
shall again recover its ancient Lustre.
Save thine afflicted People, and bring
down the proud and high looks. Let
the Wickedness of the Wicked be
brought to an end, and establish thou
the Just on the Earth.

Double the Portion of thy Spirit
on Magistrates, that they may be just,
and rule in thy fear.

Prosper the Word of Grace and
Salvation in the Mouths of thy Mi-
nisters. Set open, and continue so,
the Door of thy Gospel in despight
of all opposition. Cause thy Truth
to shine forth gloriously and triun-
phantly, as the Sun at Noon-day,
and let it dispel the thick mist of
Dark-

Darkness and Error that hath overspread so many Nations of the World. Set up every where thy pure Worship, and throw down Idolatry where-ever it prevails.

Comfort all thy Mourners in *Sion*. Precious in the sight of the Lord let be the Death of all thy Saints. Let the Spirit of Glory rest on all those that suffer for Christ ; and do thou give them an hundred fold. Let them overcome by the Blood of the Lamb, and Word of his Testimony. Let the Blood of thy Martyrs be the Seed of the Church.

Such as walk in Darkness be thou pleased to shine upon, though it be but a glimpse through the Lattress : For them under Satan's buffeting, let thy Grace be sufficient, and let not their Faith fail.

Feed the Hungry, cloath the Naked, heal the Sick, strengthen the Weak, loose the Captive, and according to the greatness of thy Power preserve them

them appointed to dye : Give them Visits from Heaven in their saddest Solitudes, and sweet Visions of Peace in the darkest Night of their Afflictions.

And now (O Lord) since thou hast given me this Morning a Resurrection from the Grave of my Bed, and hast added another Day to my Life, be pleased to add Grace to my Heart, that I may improve it in looking after the things that belong to my Peace. O thou who commandest Light to shine out of Darkness, cause the Sun of Righteousness to shine on my Soul. Help me this day to walk as in thy sight, and do thou hide thy Law in my Heart, that I sin not against thee.

Let the Angel of thy presence conduct me in all my goings out and returns, and let the Hand of thy Providence be over me for good. Confirm and prosper the Works of my Hands, and let Heaven's Benediction influence all my Undertakings.

Bless

Bless me in all my lawful Employments, and hedge up my sinful ways with Thorns ; yea, suffer me to engage in nothing in which thy Soul will not delight to bless me.

Give me (Holy Father) this Day my Dayly Bread, assist me against my Dayly Infirmities, and preserve me from all those Snares, that Satan or the World shall lay to entrap me. Lead me not into, nor leave me in any Temptation. Deliver me from all Evil both of Sin and Suffering.

Cause me to sanctifie in my Heart thy great and glorious Name, and to take the Kingdom of Heaven by Violence. Let me be one step nearer Heaven in the Evening than I was in the Morning.

Lead me, I beseech thee, into all the Paths of Truth, that I may so do thy Will this day here on Earth, that when I come to cast up my accounts, between thee and my Soul, at Night, I may do it with Joy, and not with Grief :

Grief : And having served thee this day, and all the days of my Life, I may at last receive the Reward of thy Kingdom.

In all which my Requests, I beseech thee, to hear me in what I have prayed for according to thy Will, in the name and for the sake of Christ Jesus, who dyed for my Offences, and rose again for my Justification, and is now ascended, and sits at thy Right-hand continually to make Intercession for me. To whom with thy Sacred Majesty, and coequal Spirit, be ascribed as is due of me (with the whole Israel of God) all possible and equal Praise the residue of this Morning, and for evermore. *Amen.*

LINK XIV.

Infinitely Glorious, transcendently Gracious Lord God, Ever-living and Ever-loving Father in Jesus Christ, an inexhaustible Fountain of Goodness in thine own Nature, and a communicable spring of Consolation in thy acts towards thy People. Thy Mercies are like thy self from everlasting to everlasting, and according to thy Working, so is thy Being.

Thy Paternal Care reacheth the minute and despicable Worms on Earth as well as the glorious Intelligences in Heaven. Thou takest care of the Sparrows, clothest the Lillies, and the Ravens have thee for their Cater and Almoner ; much more wilt thou provide for the Families of thy People, who continually fear and serve thee.

Every day presents me with the fresh Experiments of thy Divine Bounty and Benignity towards me : Thy

F

Mercies

Mercies are multiplied, and thy Lov-
ing-kindnesses repeated to me every
moment. I sit under the shadow o
thy Wings, and thy Love as a Banner
is displayed over me : Therefore am
come into thy blessed Presence to of-
fer up my Evening Sacrifice of Prayer
and Thanksgiving at the Throne o
thy Grace.

Thou art a God that wilt be found
of those that seek thee, as well as be-
sought of those that find thee. O be-
pleased to bow the Heavens, and come
down. Stretch out the golden Scepter
of thy Grace this Evening toward
me : Bid my Soul welcome into thy
glorious Presence, and vouchsafe me
gracious Communion with thee.

But what am I that I should pray to
the Almighty, or lift up mine Eyes
towards thy Mercy-seat ? I am alto-
gether unworthy to appear in thy
sight, or to speak to so holy a God as
thou art. I have not walked before
thee with an upright Heart, and in a

perfect

Low perfect way ; but rather according to every course of the World, the dictates now of Satan, and the deceitful motions anne my treacherous Heart.

All my Actions natural, civil, religious, have been clothed with guilt and defilement. My very Imaginations are vain, my Desires earthly, my Days irregular : An universal Ataxy and Disorder hath seised upon me, as be Kindness of Mind, hardness of Heart, O b Readness to all that is spiritually and come wingly Good. I am become a grievous revolter, and have wrought great provocations against thee.

The work of my particular Calling interferes with my general, and the world even quite justles out Heaven. ay to am then hunting for Venison, when Eyes should be catching the Blessing. En alto thy not into Judgment with me (O word) for I cannot stand in thy sight. If such be the Conversation of my selfe, what is the Constitution of my nature ? The Stream is nothing, compared

pared to the Fountain : O that cursed root of Bitterness, and spring of Corruption that's seated in it. Alas I have destroyed, but cannot save myself. Run a pace I can in the way Hell, but can't so much as set a step towards Heaven. Nay, though thou hast drawn me by the Cords of Love, yet I have not run after them but am gone away backward by a perpetual backsliding.

And O what a Tragedy of Wickedness hath been acted on the Scene of my Life ? Many Days, Weeks Months and Years are past in sinning against thee, but very few Moments have I spent in thy service. I have not courageously maintained and kept up that spiritual combate with my own fleshy and unregenerate part ; since my Profession made of thee the World, I have little minded Religion, but have gone an whoring after my own Inventions, since I eschewed its Concerns.

I press not forward in Grace, nor aspire towards Perfection, but in many things I have come short of those I have yet at last will come short of heaven. My course and conversation through the World have been generally evil, of time hath been spent in doing nothing, or in undoing my Soul, have not shewed forth in my Life the Power of Christ's Death in dying for Sin, nor the blessed efficacy of his resurrection in living to God. My heart has not been so affected with the ravishing Beauty of Grace, as to carry it out towards it with ambitious and loving Desires.

I have made others Sins too much with my own by a cursed compliance, and born that Wickedness down enough by the stream of my Prayers, which I could not by that of my Power; I have minded Earth more than Heaven. To me (O Lord, I acknowledge) belongs nothing but shame and confusion.

By all my Confessions I am no way Lord
able to unravel my Guilt, nor if thy
mine Iniquities in order before me iniquities,
I dare not extenuate them, neither shall th
can I make Satisfaction, or bear thons M
Punishment due unto me for them deeply.
I know nothing can satisfie God busness to
God; finite Obedience can't recompence exp
pence the Injury done to infinite JuRams,
stice. I have destroyed my self, but ea, th
in thee only is my Help to be found cannot
If the Lord will punish and damn me thou
for ever, his ways are just and equal thou i
but be thou pleased to pardon me on as
and as Sin hath abounded so let Grace justice
much more abound.

I have heard that the King of Heav'n;
ven is a merciful King, therefore trouble
come unto thee. O that thou who ou the wh
of thine abundant Patience hast spared righ
and repriev'd me, wouldst help me to Chri
sue for (and do thou pass to me) thnd br
grant of a Pardon, lest my temporarie Ch
ry preservation proves but a reserv' him, a
tion to the day of final execution.

Lor

Lord I cannot stand before the Bar
of thy Justice, O pardon mine Iniquities, because they are great, so
that thy free Grace be magnified, thy
Majesties Merits advanced, and my Soul
then deeply engaged in highest Thankfulness
to thee. Though I can't atone
recompence or expiate my Sin by thousands of
ite Jurams, or ten thousand Rivers of Oil;
f, before, the first begotten of my Body
found cannot satisfie for the Sin of my Soul.
mn m thou hast so loved the World that
equa thou hast given thy only begotten
n me on as a Price for the satisfaction of
Grace Justice; his Soul was poured out to
the Death, and made an offering for
f Heaven; and I know thou wilt not take
before double Satisfaction. The Judge of
ho ou the whole Earth will do that which
spares right.

me Christ was wounded for my Sins,
e) and bruised for mine Iniquities: Let
temporal Chastisement of my Peace be upon
eserve him, and by his Stripes let my Soul
on. be healed. It's the Glory of a Man to

pass by InfirmitieS, and shall it not be lights
thy Glory (most merciful Father) to rather
pardon Offences?

Lord, it's not Riches and Honour
I beg, but Pardon ; not Height nor Grace
Greatness, but thy Grace and Favour ;
not Respect and Kindness from Men
in the World, but Reconciliation with
thee.

Thou hast (Holy Father) had Mer-
cy on thousands, and am I he alone
who shall be sent away empty ? Are
the treasures of Grace all exhausted ?
Nay, Art not thou as full of Com-
passion as ever ? And is not the Foun-
tain of Grace yet running ? Have
Mercy on me, O Father, and let thy
free Grace triumph in my Unworthi-
ness.

My Sins indeed are numberless, but
Christ's Merits are infinite : With thee
my God, in and through him, is plen-
teous Redemption, and abundant For-
givenes, that thou mayest be feared.
Is not Mercy the Attribute thou de-
lights

not be lights to magnifie ? Hadst thou not
er) to rather save one coming in to thee,
than destroy a thousand going on in
rebellion against thee ? Will not Free
Grace be more advanced in my Con-
version, than Justice can in my Con-
demnation ? Consult, I beseech thee,
thy tenderest Compassions towards me.
Where is the sounding of thy Bowels,
are they restrained ?

It's a Mercy I have a Nail in thy
Tabernacle, a little reviving or breath-
ing time here on Earth ; but what
good will a Reprieval do me without
a Pardon ? or admission into Fellow-
ship with the Church Militant signify,
if at last I be excluded Communion
with that Triumphant.

Thou art a God who delightest
not in the Death of Sinners, and hast
sworn by thy Life thou hast no plea-
sure in their Destruction, but hadst
rather they should be sav'd, and come
unto the knowledge of the Truth ;
yea, thou invitest them to com-
unto thee

thee weary and heavy-laden, with the burden of their Sins, that so they may find rest for their Souls. Thy Command (O Lord) is express, thy Promise free, thy Call and Offer general, I know thou wilt not fail or deceive thy poor Creature, who being thy dependant do hope in thy Mercy.

Cast my Sins (I beseech thee) behind thy back, whilst I set them before me ; do thou forget and not impute them to Condemnation, whilst I remember them to Humiliation : Hide them all in Christ's Wounds, Bury them in his Grave, nail them to his Cross, and charge them on his score, that they be no more reckon'd unto me, but being cancell'd in his Blood, I may be looked upon as if I never had offended against thee.

Cast out of the Soil of my Heart all the Weeds of Corruption : Let my Wilderness be turned into a fruitful Paradise, and my Soul become a Land

of Delights. Being justified by Faith let me have Peace with God through the Son of thy Love, and partake of all the Royal Priviledges, of Redemption, Adoption, and Sanctification. Make me lost in my self, that I may be found in Christ; empty me of my own, and supply me out of his Fullness : Make me (I beseech thee) a Spouse of that Husband, a Building on that Foundation, a Member of that Head, a Branch of that Vine; that receiving Sap and Moisture from him, I may bring forth Fruit, and grow up to Perfection.

Cause my Soul to know thy Loving-kindness, that my Redeemer lives, and that my Name is written in his Book of Life. Let me follow thee my God in the dark, when I have lost my Vision : Let me never conclude thee departed, nor Christ so far gone as to think he will never return :: Let me ever keep up the Duty and Obedience of a Child, though I want the

Smiles

Smiles and Respects of my Heavenly Father, that so Mercy at last may come leaping over the Hills, and skipping over the Mountains.

As the first *Adam* hath derived to me fulness of Sin, so let the second communicate fulness of Grace. Cause my adamantine Soul to dissolve, while in bitterness and heaviness I mourn for my Offences. Make my Head waters, and mine Eyes to gush out with rivers of Tears, because I have not kept thy Law.

Create (I beseech thee) a new Heart within me, that so escaping the Corruption in the World thro' Lust, I may have my Fruit unto Holiness. Help me to order my Conversation aright, and let the Oyl of thy Mercy quicken the wheels of my Affections. As I hope and believe, so let me walk that I may evidence the inward renovation of my Heart by the real and total reformation of my Life.

Lord

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Lord heal the disorder of my dis-tempered Nature, and purge my polluted Conscience in the Blood of thy Son.

Assist me by the favourable gales of thy Grace, while I am sailing against the stream of corrupt and degenerate Nature, that I may yet maintain the Combat, while I cannot compleat the Victory, till at last I come to win and obtain the triumph. Let me not (with the Willow) bend with every Wind, but stand as the Oak in the greatest concussions.

Destroy in me the commanding as well as the condemning power of Sin, that while it hath a being, it may never be admitted a throne and principality in me, and though turbulent against me, it may never be prevalent over me.

Help me not only to break off Sin's intolerable yoke, but to take Christ's upon me, which is easie and light. O let me esteem one glimpse of thy Coun-

Countenance before all the Corn, Wine and Oyl in the World. Lord enter into Covenant with me, that I may become wholly thine. Be thou my God, and let me become one of thy People.

Let my Conversation be not only civilly, but spiritually and religiously Good. While I live soberly as to the World, let me live piously also in Christ. Above all other Graces give me sincerity, and help me to aspire forward towards Perfection, that so the Divine Image may be daily perfecting in me, till from the nature I am advanced to the stature and measure of Christ.

Let thy way become strength to my Soul: While I am upright before thee, and under my greatest declensions, let me renew my Strength as the Eagle. Let every day of my Life be a constant preparative for the day of my Death; and being a follower of those who inherit the Promises, let me

me patiently wait my appointed change.

And though unworthy to supplicate for my self, I desire to commend thy *Sion* to thy Fatherly Care and Compassions, in all my applications to and supplications before thee.

The Lord yet dwell in *Sion*, and make the place of thy Feet glorious. As a Bridegroom rejoyceth over his Bride, so do thou rejoice over thy Church : Make her fair as the Moon, beautiful as the Sun, terrible as an Army with Banners. Let the Mountain of the Lord's House be exalted on the top of the Mountains, and to Christ let the gathering of the People be.

Remember the Seed of *Abraham* thy Friend : Take off thy Curse, and let not thy Indignation burn always against them. Though the Blood of thy dear Son lyes heavy upon them, and hitherto thou hast justly hardened them, yet be thou pleased of thy

Infinite

Infinite Mercy to open their Eyes, to unstopp their Ears, to mollifie their Hearts, and to cause them to mourn over him whom their Fore-fathers have pierced.

Make them understand those sacred Oracles which thou didst commit to their keeping ; that Christ, who hath long since been a Light to lighten the *Gentiles*, may in thy due time be the Glory of thy People *Israel*. Let them be saved by that Jesus whom they crucified, by that most precious Blood which they shed.

Appear in a way of deliverance for all that appear for thee in a way of distress. Send Truth and Peace, I beseech thee, among the Nations : Let them with one Heart and Mouth glorifie thee, the True and Eternal God. Perfect every where begun Reformations, and visit in Mercy these sinful Islands.

Let the Dew of thine abundant Blessings fall upon the Head of my

Sove-

Sovereign : Give her the Success of *David*, the Wisdom of *Solomon*, and the Zeal of *Josiah*. Defend her from all her Enemies, and bless her in her Royal Relations. Make her a most Religious Defender of thy Sacred Truth, and a Gracious Governour to all her Subjects.

O King of Kings ! thou who hast been pleased to make her a living Image of thine Almighty Power, and a visible expression of thy Heavenly Glory, grant that she may adore thy Scepter, and humble her self before the Throne of thine universal Empire. Let her consider that she is to appear before thy great Tribunal, not only as a Woman, but also as a Princess. O govern her by thine Excellent Wisdom, that she may employ the Power and Authority which she hath received from thee, to thy Honour and Glory.

Thou hast delivered her out of all her Troubles ; thou hast justified her Right

Right to these Crowns by a Gracious and Miraculous Restauration. O let her never forget thine infinite Goodness, so visibly declared to her and her People. Enrich her Soul with Divine Graces. Let Justice and Peace flourish in her Reign, and when she shall depart out of this Life, let her be receiv'd into thy magnificent Palace, there to adore thee for ever and ever.

Be with all inferiour Magistrates; Let them be a Terrour to Evil-doers, and an Encouragement to them that do well. Enlighten their Understandings with thy Divine Knowledge, and strengthen them with that Spirit which thou gavest to *Moses*, and to his Judges in *Israel*. Let their Ears be alwayes open to hear the Cries of the afflicted, but shut to all unjust Suggestions. Grant that without respect of Persons, they may render to every one what is his right, that nothing may hinder them from condemning the guilty, and justifying the innocent. Let them

con-

consider that when they have done judging others, they shall be judged themselves, and nothing shall be able to oppose the Decrees of thine Infinite Wisdom.

Bless the Ministers of thy word and Sacraments : Pour upon them abundance of thy Grace, and give a happy success to their Labours. Let them always consider that the Sheep they feed belong not to them, but to the Lord Jesus, who hath created them by thine infinite Power, and redeemed them by thy wonderful Goodness. Let them remember that they are shortly to appear before thy Glorious presence, and to give an account of their Stewardship. Let them delight in declaring the wonderful Councils of thy Wisdom, and discovering the Mysteries of thy Kingdom. Let their Meat and Drink be to do thy Will, and to perfect thy Work. Drive away from thy Flock all Ravenous Wolves, and raise up to thy Church such as are Faithful, Sober,

ber, Pious and Learned. Shut the Mouths of all false Prophets, and let thy Truth be Victorious over every Error.

Let the place of thy Habitation be a Mountain of Justice and Holiness, and let the Good Will of him who dwelt in the Bush, visit this Family. Give me Grace (I beseech thee) to walk in my House with a perfect Heart, that I may be a pattern of Good Works, and example of Piety, Religion and Charity to all those about me.

And now my God, who hast been my Keeper this Day, in my goings out and returns, be my Watchman this Night, and cover me with the Wing of thy Gracious Protection. Sanctifie my Thoughts, and let my Reins instruct me in the Night-Season.

Be thou my Guide, and let thine Angels guard me; Compose my Body to desired Rest, and compass me about with Songs of Deliverance. Into thy Hands I commend my Spirit, and when

when I awake, let my Heart be with thee.

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that I ask or think, according to the power that worketh in me, unto him be Glory in the Church by Christ Jesus, throughout all Ages, World without end. *Amen.*

LINK XV.

O Most Merciful and Bountiful God, Thy Majesty is great, thy Goodness, Clemency and Providence Wonderful, thy Power is High above all Nations, and thy Glory above the Heavens : Who O Lord is like unto thee ? or among Men or Angels may be compared with thee ? And yet though thou dwellest on High, all Actions and Events, both in Heaven and Earth, are rul'd, guided, and ordered by thee. If the proud

proud Angels in Heaven aspire to thy Throne, thou beholdest it, and they shall feel thy Power. If insolent Men on Earth shall exalt themselves against thee, they shall drink of the Cup of thy Wrath ; when thy Servants Sin, and yet shall humble themselves, thou wilt behold their Contrition, accept their Tears, and forgive their ungracious Behaviour. O how great, How admirable, How excellent is thy Name in all the Earth ? My words are too flat to express, my Sense and Reason too weak to comprehend the Wisdom of thy Ways, the Immensity of thy Goodness, which thou hast shewed to the Children of Men.

Thou hast dealt very Bountifully with me, in hearing my Petitions, in Pardonning my Sins, and restoring me to the comforts of thy blessed Spirit ; Therefore will I shew forth thy Praise, and walk before thee in Righteousness and Holiness as long as I live. It shall be the boast of my Soul, and the joy of my

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my Heart, that when I sought thee, thou hadst respect to thy Servant, and didst free me from all those fears with which I was surpriz'd, for behold I poor wretch forsaken and contemned by all in the midst of my miseries, having implored thy help, thou didst hear and deliver me. Let all those who are of a meek and Patient Spirit under the Cross hear thereof and be glad: When their Eyes are dejected, even then let them look up unto thee; when their Faces are clouded with sorrow, be pleased then to enlighten them with thy favourable Countenance, so shall they not be ashamed that they put their trust and confidence in thee.

O my God, Thou art no less Glorious in thy Mercy, than Dreadful in thy Justice. Though thou art able to destroy, yet thou art willing to save, for thine Anger is turned away thou hast removed thy stroke from thy Servant; Thou hast freed me from the slavery of Satan, from the drudgery and

and service of Sin, and from those bitter calamities, which like many waters did environ my Soul. Therefore, amidst all the storms of this life, to thee, Holy Father will I fly for protection, to thee alone for Safety and Succour. O Lord, thou art good in thy self, and dost good to thy Servant in all that thou bringest upon him. Go on Gracious God, not to afflict, but to teach me, and by thy chastisements to make me the wiser.

Bless the Lord O my Soul, and forget not all his Benefits, who forgiveth all thine iniquities ; who healeth all thy Diseases ; who redeemeth thy Life from Destruction, who crowneth thee with Loving-kindness and tender Mercies : who satisfieth thy Mouth with good things, so that thy Youth is renewed like the Eagles. Infinite, O Lord, are the causes I have, with the greatest alacrity to praise thee ; so many have been thy Mercies, so wonderful thy Providence, so strange thy protection

tection towards me through the whole course of my Life.

My Substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the Earth: Thou didst pour me out as Milk, and cruddle me like Cheese: with Flesh and Skin hast thou cloathed me, and fenced me with Bones and Sinews. Thou hast granted me Life and Favour, and thy visitation hath preserved my Spirit. Naked and Hungry I came into this World, and thou hast hitherto most bountifully covered and fed me. Whatsoever is necessary for the Sustentation of my Life, all that I receive from thy most liberal Hands. When I was lost and condemned thou didst Redeem me by the Blood of thy Son. I was the slave of the Prince of Darkness, but thy Grace hath delivered me out of his power, and translated me into the Kingdom of Christ: *my Reward*.

O Blessed Jesus ! How great is thy praise
Love to Man, that thou didst vouchsafe Soul !
Safe to be Born of a Virgin, to assume prepara-
the Seed of Abraham, and not the Name meet
ture of Angels ; to endure Hunger, grief,
Thirst, Cold, Weariness, Reproaches But sh
Persecutions, Sorrows, Poverty, Bonds and re-
Whips, Pricking of Thorns, and that uncorr-
most bitter Death of the Cross ! And G
How great is the flame of thy Love whither-
and the inclination of thy pity, which my Sh
forced thee for my sake to suffer such me to
grievous things. It is I that trespassed and wi-
and thou hast made Satisfaction. It is O m
that Sinned and thou hast undergone these d
the punishment. O Let the Rememb're the
brance of these thy Mercies be even so Raw
sweet to the Soul of thy Servant. Harvey

Enable me (I beseech thee) to live Head,
the life of the Saints, that I may die if I did
the Death of the Righteous. Guide and Tr
me, O Lord, by thy Counsel, and coming
afterwards receive me to Glory : So for Most P
all the goodness that thou hast shewn give me
ed to me on Earth, I shall Eternally have da
praise

is the praise thee in Heaven. Rejoice O my
ouch Soul ! Look up to that Rest that God
ffum prepares for thee above. There I shall
e Na meet with no trouble, weariness nor
ngengrief, no sorrow, displeasure nor pain ;
aches But shall enter into the joy of my Lord,
onds and receive from his Merciful Hand, the
tha uncorruptible Crown of Immortality
s ! And Glory ; I shall follow the Lamb
Love whithersoever he goes, and he shall be
which my Shepherd for ever ; He will lead
such me to the Fountains of Living Water,
assed and wipe away all tears from mine eyes.

It is O my God, if the expectation of
rgon these delights be so pleasant, what will
mem be the fruition ? If the first Fruits are
e even so Ravishing, what shall I say of the
. Harvest ? Give me Grace to lift up my
o live Head, looking for my Redemption, as
y did I did already hear the sound of the
Guid last Trumpet, and see the Lord Jesus
and coming in the Clouds of Heaven. O
So for Most Powerful and Merciful Lord, for
thew give my impatient Wishes, and hasten
nally that day for the Elects sake ; Come
praise

and trample upon the Pride of the World, and of all the Enemies of thy Sacred Truth. Come and execute Judgment upon her that is Drunk with the Blood of thy Holy Martyrs. Come and bind the roaring Lion in Chains and shut him for ever in the bottomless Pit, that thy Church may be delivered out of this *Babylon*, where i hath been so long in Bondage.

Now unto the King Eternal, Immortal, invisible, the only wise God be Honour, Praise, Glory, Mighty Majesty and Dominion, from this time forth, and for evermore. *Amen.*

O Lord God Almighty, thou Only begotten Son, and Holy Spirit; O Sacred Trinity, which art without beginning, and in whom is no division: I Heartily thank thee for the assistance in this work, which I wholl attribute to thy Grace, and Humbly dedicate to thine Honour.

Print
ing

17

H 'Αρασκδην οὗτος Αστόρ

Or, A Short

TREATISE
OF THE
Immortality
OF THE
S O U L.

By J. T. D. D.

Θεῖς νῦν, τὸ δὲν διαλογίζεσθαι πελάνω
Democrats.

L O N D O N,

Printed for J. Blare, at the Looking-Glass, upon London-Bridge,
1704.

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 S O U L.

AS in God there is One Essence, and Three distinct Persons, so in the Soul of Man there is one Essence, and Three distinct Powers, the Memory, the Understanding, and the Will ; which according to *Scotus* *, are essentially the same with the very Essence of the Soul, as

* *Scotus sub. prim.
sent. distinct. 2.*

the Three Persons of the Godhead are really the same with the Divine Nature. But alas, who can describe the Essence of the Soul ? *Hippocrates calleth it φυσις αρχη*, The ininspectable or invisible Nature, which can no more be described by us, than our Eye is able to see it self. For could the Soul be discerned with our Eye, or conceived by the Mind, how would it ravish us, and lead us into an excessive Love of it self.

This only is indivisible and imma-

* Eccles. 12. 7. Dan.
12. 5. Matth. 10. 28.

Sap. 3. 1. *Anima in quibuscunq; suis motibus tota est.* August. 1. de Spiritu & Anima, c. 19.

terial ; this alone is incorporeal, * immortal, ἀναλόγως or immutable ; and may be called the receptacle, prompt-

tuary or store-house of all the species or kinds of Things, being a created substance, and all in each of its motions. The beauty of the Body compared to that of the Soul, is but as a Candle in comparison of the Sun. If

the

the Body be a fair Shell, the Soul is the Pearl : If the Body be the Lant-
horn, the Soul is the Light : If the Body (as St. Ambrose saith) be the triumphant Chariot of the peaceable *Solomon*, the Soul is the Queen, which sitteth thereon to guide and govern it. If the Body be as the green moss of some Sea-neighbouring Rock, the Soul is the Diamond, which within hideth its lustre. It is the well-beloved of God, which is fallen from his Mouth into this mortal Prison ; it is that which advantageously is marked with his Stamp and glorious Image ; yea, it is that on which the Creator hath distended his Royal Purple, as is said in the Prophet *Ezekiel* : And this Royal Garment is no other, than a collection of all the Perfections of Creatures contracted in the Soul of Man, as the figure of the World would be in the Circumference of a Ring.

Ezek. 16. *Expandū
amictum meum super-
te.*

All Examples derived from material Things, can never express the Beauty of this most excellent Substance. Heaven excells all the Glories of the Earth, Fire surpasses Water, the Stars in lustre excel the most precious Stones : We may admire the Rainbow in Heaven, the Violets and Lillies, with all the pride and variety of the Fields, which are all nothing, in a manner, if compared with the Glories of the Soul ; and those ineffable Honours she shall be clothed withal in the Day of her Bliss : For such is the Excellency of the Soul, that the same alone is capable of the Divine Nature, as St. Bernard saith, *Et licet cæteris omnibus occupari potest, impleri tamen non potest; quia capax Dei est, & quicquid Deo minus est, non eam ad implebit;* and though it may busie it self with all other Things, yet cannot it be satisfied with any Thing ; because it is capable of the Godhead, and whatsoever is less than God can never fill

the Soul of Man, which doth always seek to mount up *super altitudines Terra*, above all Earthly Things, & *berere origini sua*, and to be always contemplating of her chiefest Bliss, and to enjoy the Fruition of the chiefest Good : Yea, it is the Society of holy Angels, and blessed Saints, the sweet communion with its dearest Spouse, the shining Body of the Son of God, the beatifical Fruition of the Deity it self, the depth of Eternity, and the like everlasting Fountains of Spiritual Ravishment and Joy, which only can feed and fill the restless and infinite Appetite of that Immortal Thing with fulness of Contentment. Indeed it cannot be exprest how great the Extasies of her Joys must be, when she shall not only be ravished with Contentments of her glorious Condition for the present, but rest likewise secur'd of their Eternity, that, without lessening or decay, but rather with increase, they shall endure for ever ::

ever. Therefore St. Augustine faith,
*O anima mea, insignata
 Aug. Ut citatur in gem. Dei imagine, despontata
 Predicant. fide, dotata Spiritu, dilige
 eum à quo tantum dilecta
 es, & quere querentem te ; O my Soul,
 formed after Gods Image, espoused to
 him by Faith, and endued with his
 Spirit ; Love him that so much Loved
 thee, and seek him that doth so ear-
 nestly seek for thee.*

Yet further our Soul, to teach us
 its Immortality, doth wonderful
 Works, which fear not the Sythe of
 Time, the Wheel of Inconstancy, nor
*litteram
 Modus operandi
 sequitur modum
 effendi.* the power of Death ; it
 out-lives Stones, Mettals,
Ægyptian Pyramids, and
 the Worlds Seven Won-
 ders. It diggeth into all the Treasures
 and Magazines of Nature, and descend-
 eth into the deep Caverns of the Earth,
 there to meditate on the Mettals. It
 floateth on the Sea, and reckoneth the
 veins of the Abyss ; it keeps a Register
 of

of so many Birds and Fishes, so many Terrestrial Creatures, so many Worms and Serpents, and so many Herbs and Plants. All this great frame of Nature passeth through its consideration, from the Cedars of *Libanus*, to the Hyssop.

It also mounteth above the tracts of the Sun, scoreth out the course of the Heavens, and the periods of the Stars. It deciphereth Eclipses to an instant, and foregoeth by understanding those great Celestial Bodies whose Motions are more swift than Wind or Thunder.

Radix intelligentiae est immaterialitas. Avicenna apud Cas. preol.

It createth Sciences, inventeth Arts, and findeth out an infinite number of devices. It governeth the great Bodies of Kingdoms and Commonwealths with passages of incomparable prudence.

In the mean time, she beholdeth about her self an infinite number of Dogs that Bark at her Happiness, and endeavour to bite her on every side.

sife. Love fooleth her, Ambition turmoileth her, Avarice rusteth her, and Lust inflameth her; vain Hopes sooth her, Pleasures melt her, Despair over-bears her, and Choler burns her; Hatred filleth her with Gall, Envy gnaweth her, Jealousie pricketh her and Revenge enrageth her; Cruelty maketh her Savage, Fear frosteth her and Sorrow consumes her. This poor Soul shut up in the Body, as a Bird of Paradise in a Cage, is altogether amazed to see her self assailed by all this mutinous multitude; and though she have a Scepter in her Hand to rule, she notwithstanding oft suffereth her self to be deceived, ravished, and dragged along into a miserable servitude.

And yet for all the cruel Passions, which thus Tyrannize over this Noble Nature; it is as impossible the light of the Sun should become Night, and Fire Ice, as the Soul of Man, which
is

is the source of Life and Understanding, should be subject to Death.

This truth of the immortality of the Soul is acknowledged and confessed by all sorts of Nations: It is the belief of *Hebrews*, *Caldeans*, *Persians*, *Medes*, *Babylonians*, *Ægyptians*, *Arabians*, *Ethiopians*, *Scythians*, *Grecians*, ancient *Gauls*, *Romans*; and that which is most admirable, after one hath roamed over *Europe*, *Africk* and *Asia*, let him enter into the New Worlds, which Nature hath divided from us by so mighty a Mass of Seas, Rocks, and Monsters, he findeth the Faith of the Souls Immortality began there so soon as Men. From whence comes this consent so Great, so Universal, so Authentical, in a thing so Sublime, so alienated from Sense, but from the Spirit of God? And therefore,
Scimus nec vana fides est, solutas membris animas habere sensum, & in originem suam spiritum redire cœlestem;

cælestem; We know, and our Faith is not in vain, that Souls discharged from Bodies have understanding, and that the Spirit, which is Celestial, returneth to its Original.

Moreover, All the most eminent Philosophers, following the bright splendor of Natural Light, have agreed, in this truth of the Immortality of the Soul; as *Mercurie Trismegistus*, *Pythagoras*, *Plato*, *Aristotle*, *Xenocrates*, *Seneca*, *Plutarch*, *Maximus*, *Tyriensis*, *Jamblicus*, *Themistius*, *Epicurus*, and *Cicero*, as may be seen in so many excellent Treatises, in which, if something repugnant to our Doctrine may be discovered, it is to be understood of the sensitive and vegetative Soul; not the reasonable and intelligent, which these Authors ever set aside, as being Celestial and Divine.

Never was there any Man (saith *Plotinus*) of good Understanding amongst

mongst so many Writers, who strove not for the Immortality of the Soul.

But if any one among them hath impugned it, even in the darkness of Gentilism, it hath been observed, there ever was ever some disorder and impurity in his life, which made him controvert his opinion to divert the apprehension of Punishments due to his Crimes.

Thales Miletius, a most ancient Philosopher, defined the Soul to be Φύσις αείναιτο, ἢ αὐτοκίνητον, a Nature always permanent, and by it self moveable; and *Cicero* saith; *Sic mihi persuasi, sic sentio, cum tanta sit celeritas animorum, memoria præteriorum, providentia futuorum, tot artes, tot scientiæ tot inventa, non posse eam naturam, quæ res ipsas contineat, esse mortalem;* So I have perswaded my self, and so I think, that seeing the celerity or swiftness of the Souls of Men is such, and

Malunt enim extingui penitus, quam ad supplicia reservari.

Cicero de Senect.

and so great in the Memory of things past, and in the providence and foresight of things to come, and so many Arts, Sciences and Inventions are found out thereby ; the same Nature which containeth all these things, cannot possibly be mortal : And therefore by the very Heathens, there is ascribed to the Soul of Man both

Vide Colerum de animarum immortalitate. *Nancel. de immortalit. animæ.* *p. 95.* *vis & maximus bonus,* the greatest power, and the greatest Honour ; and the Prince of Philosophers telleth us, it is *sōegastu x̄ legroder,* an infusion Celestial, and no Natural Traduction.

*Οττι φυχὴ, πὸν δυνάμεων ταῖρδε ἐγαφαίνει,
Ἄστερος τε μένον καὶ ζῶντος δύναται.*

Because the Soul, seeing it is a bright fire of the Father, (as Zoroaster calleth it) doth both remain Immortal, and is the Lady of Life.

This Truth therefore of the Immortality of the Soul; I think no Man will

will deny, but he that is as ready to deny that there is a God ; seeing also as *Aratus* saith, *Ἄρτος οὐκέτι πάντες οὐδείς εἰσιν θεοί*, we are his off-spring ; and *Plato* in his *Timæus*, saith, *anima immortalis est, & secundum quod vicebit Passiones, vel victa fuerit, præmitabitur vel punietur post hanc vitam* ; the Soul of Man is Immortal, and as it vanquisheth the Passions of the Body, or is thereby vanquished, so it shall be rewarded or punished after this Life.

As for prophane Atheists which deny the Immortality of the Soul ; Put them a little upon the proof of their opinion, and let them consider the reasons of *Plinie*, *Lucretius*, *Panecus*, and *Soranus*, they are not Men who speak, but Hogs that Grunt. They tell you, the Soul is not seen at its passage out of the Body, as if the Corporal Eye which discerneth not the Winds, were made to see a Soul Spiritual. They curiously enquire where so many separated Souls may

may abide, as if Hell were not big enough to contain all the Atheists.

Faith teacheth us, it is a substance created of nothing by the Word of

*Si credit, immortalis est ad vitam :
si non credit, immortalis est ad pe-
nam. Aug de Symb. ad Catechum. n. 3.
c. 3.*

the Almighty, reasonable, intellectual, spiritual, always lively and active, so capable that nothing but God can replenish it. He that

will know more than the Eternal Wisdom hath revealed, and will not believe it Immortal for his Glory, shall feel it Immortal by the Eternity of punishment saith St. Augustine.

To conclude, let us regard this Victorious Spirit, which hath escaped the Chains of Times, and Laws of Death. Let us not betray its Honour, wither up its Glory, nor deface the Character which God hath given it : But let us prepare it for the great Day of God, which must make the separation of a part so Divine from these Mortal Members, that at last

we

we may enter into those precious Temples of Eternal Splendours, where our Being never shall have end, our Knowledge admit Ignorance, nor Love suffer Change.

Δέξα τὰ Θεῖα κατίσσεις.

F I N I S.

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